

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Water...
How to paddle your own canoe
Water...
The pleasure of a Norwegian coastal cruise and white water rafting in Canada
Everywhere...
How to get technical on board your yacht
And not a drop...
don't drink the stuff on holiday, don't sunbathe and don't consort with sea urchins, says Julie Davidson
Hot water...
Spike Milligan finds himself on the black list
...and cold
John Nicholls reports on the start of the Fastnet race
Comfort...
Small gardeners should protect their seeds against standardization from the EEC

Sterling crashes to \$1.4875

The pound crashed 1.9 cents against the dollar to \$1.4875, the first time it has been below \$1.50 since April. But the drop may have been a one-off adjustment, and there were no signs of pressure for British interest rates to rise. Page 13

Health cuts deadline

Health authorities have six weeks to suggest how to cut staff by between 0.75 and 1 per cent by March. Page 2

Tanks in Chad

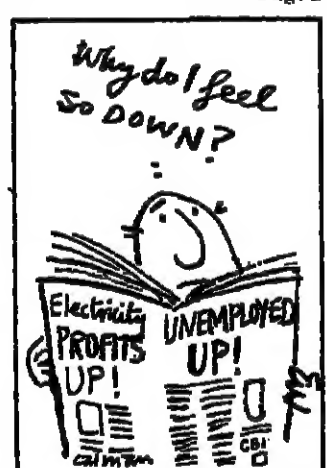
Columns of Soviet-made T62 and T72 tanks have been seen 300 miles west of the beleaguered Chad town of Faya-Largeau, according to AFP. Page 4

Cargo unloaded

The Aleksandr Ulyanov, the Soviet ship the US says was carrying arms to Nicaragua, began unloading at the port of Corinto yesterday. Page 4

Ship jobs safe

A £70m order won by Harland and Wolff's Belfast yards for four cargo ships will safeguard more than 5,000 jobs there and 7,500 in England and Scotland. Page 2



Craxi's choice

Signor Bettino Craxi has become Italy's first Socialist Prime Minister, leading a five-party coalition in the forty-fourth post war Government, and has named his 30-member Cabinet. Page 5

Car sales up

Car sales in Britain are heading for a record year. They were 17.3 per cent higher in the first seven months of this year than last. Page 13

Ovett blow

Steve Ovett will not run in the 800 metres at the world championships in Helsinki. His application was received too late. Page 20
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Healey 'to go' if left sweeps board in leadership election

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's deputy leader, will not stand for election to the Shadow Cabinet this autumn if the electoral college chooses a Neil Kinnock-Michael Meacher combination for its leadership, close associates say.

His decision reflects a growing sense of concern on Labour's centre-right about the consequences if the autumn election produces a left-wing victory for the deputy leader's post.

Some other senior Shadow Cabinet members are thought likely to want to reconsider their positions if the election does not produce a result they can regard as a "balanced ticket" for leader and deputy leader.

Mr Healey, aged 65, indicated on June 15 that he was willing to stand for election to the Shadow Cabinet and to give full support to the new leadership when he announced that he would not be a candidate to replace Mr Michael Foot. That was before Mr Meacher showed signs of beating Mr Roy Hattersley for the deputy leadership.

Most senior MPs still believe that Mr Hattersley will get the deputy leader's post if he is defeated for the leadership by Mr Neil Kinnock. One former minister said yesterday: "We can be daft sometimes, but

surely not as daft as to choose Michael Meacher ahead of Roy Hattersley."

Not everyone, however, is convinced that Mr Meacher will be defeated because he is thought to have strong support in the constituency parties. The fears on the right over the implications of a Meacher victory were expressed last month by Mr Giles Radice, chairman of the centre-right Manifesto Group, who said: "I have nothing against Michael Meacher personally, but if by some misfortune he were elected deputy leader it would be electorally disastrous for the party."

One former Labour minister said that if a Kinnock-Meacher team was elected on the Sunday of the Labour conference the first job on the Monday morning would be to appeal to Labour members and voters not to desert the party.

The fears of the right have become increasingly focused on Mr Meacher's campaign for the deputy leadership. Mr Healey will stand for the Shadow Cabinet if a Kinnock-Meacher combination emerges.

Mr Merlyn Rees, who has served recently as front bench spokesman coordinating industry and employment, confirmed yesterday that he would not be seeking re-election to Labour's front bench whatever the result of the leadership vote, which

takes place in Brighton on October 2.

He said: "I am not pulling out of politics. It is simply that I have been on the front bench for 19 years and would like to speak my mind from the back benches."

The Parliamentary Labour Party, which elects the Shadow Cabinet, has moved to the left and thus the centre-right dominance of the Shadow Cabinet is expected to end.

Mr Peter Shore, who has been most openly critical of the Labour Party's failings during the leadership campaign, intends to stand for the Shadow Cabinet whoever is elected leader if his own leadership attempt fails.

It is not known whether Mr Roy Hattersley would seek election to the Shadow Cabinet if he is defeated for both the leadership and the deputy leadership.

Several other present members of the Shadow Cabinet are thought unlikely to want to stand for the new team if a Kinnock-Meacher ticket is elected.

The view of members such as Mr Eric Varley, Mr John Smith, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, who is standing for the deputy leadership, and Mr Brynmor John are not known, but Labour MPs think that they would be certain seriously to consider their positions.

Electricity rebate ruled out despite big profits

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity industry has announced profits of £868m - £332m after the payment of loan interest - but has ruled out making a rebate to its customers and has not decided if the present freeze on prices will be extended beyond April next year.

Mr Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, announced that the supply industry in England and Wales had exceeded its Government profit target of 1.8 per cent return on assets with profits of 3.6 per cent.

Mr Jones said: "I do not apologise for our beating the target we were set; on the contrary it should be a matter for congratulation. But it has prompted the suggestion that consumers should have a rebate. A rebate would be inappropriate, but this does not mean that the customer has not benefited."

"I hope we shall be able to keep future price increases below the rate of inflation and our aim will be to get them as far below that rate as possible."

However, pricing will depend on negotiations with the National Coal Board on the price for coal and how much the electricity industry is prepared to take.

A further threat could come from trade unions who may fight proposals to bring forward a programme of power station closures from the mid 1990s to

Continued on page 2, col 6

Thatcher could be out of hospital by weekend

By Our Political Reporter

The Prime Minister rested yesterday after the operation on her damaged right eye which her surgeon pronounced to be a total success. Downing Street said that she was still running the Government from her hospital bed.

Mr Denis Thatcher said after visiting his wife at the HRR Princess Christian Hospital at Windsor, Berkshire, that she was suffering soreness but that she was "very pleased that it has been a great success".

Asked when she would be leaving hospital, Mr Thatcher replied: "That is a matter for the surgeon but I would expect, probably and hopefully, no later than Saturday."

He added that she was "obviously worried that she cannot work".

Downing Street, reacting to



Bedsides men: Mr Mark Thatcher (left) and Mr Richard Packard, surgeon, at the hospital yesterday.

criticism about the secrecy which had shrouded Mrs Margaret Thatcher's condition earlier in the week, finally released a full statement last night. In it was disclosed that before the first operation on Sunday, the Prime Minister had suffered a broken blood vessel inside her eye which left her seeing black spots. Over a period of days they had cleared, and then returned.

That, the statement said, was due to small haemorrhages into the clear jelly in the eye.

It also disclosed that the first operation involving laser beam treatment had been carried out at another hospital in Windsor, the King Edward VII, on Sunday evening.

Mr Richard Packard, Mrs Thatcher's surgeon, said after visiting the Prime Minister yesterday that she was suffering

a small amount of discomfort, but nothing more than normal after such an operation. "The operation has been totally successful."

The Downing Street statement said that during Wednesday's operation, Mrs Thatcher's eyelids were kept wide open by a specially designed piece of wire to allow adequate access to the eyeball.

It added that she was recovering as normal from the procedures involved. Drugs are being used to keep the eye dilated, which will mean blurred vision for a few days.

Mrs Thatcher's visitors yesterday also included Mr Mark Thatcher, her son, and Dr John Henderson, her own doctor. She did not do any work but has a telephone, radio and cassette player in her room.

Cards and flowers from well-wishers were delivered to the hospital and Downing Street. The Queen, Downing Street said, had been kept informed of her condition. She had expressed concern but so far had not sent a formal message to Mrs Thatcher.

The Prime Minister had also received a cable of good wishes from Mr Robert Muldoon, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Downing Street defended its earlier reluctance to give more than the barest information about Mrs Thatcher's condition, saying it was in accordance with her own wishes.

Mrs Thatcher rested in a private room in subdued light, but was not wearing dark glasses, nor was she bandaged. She was not given pain-killing drugs.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Jobless total rises to 3.23 million

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Nearly 120,000 people, two thirds of them school-leavers, joined the dole queues last month to bring the official jobless tally to 3,231,720 - almost one in seven of the workforce.

The number of unemployed school-leavers, at 327,000, is the highest on record and means that one in two of the 650,000 youngsters leaving school this year have no job to go to.

The July total would be even higher if 16,000 unemployed men aged 60 and over had not taken advantage of a measure announced in the last Budget to declare themselves retired and claim higher social security benefits.

Since April, 36,000 men have opted for retirement under the scheme and a further 107,000 in the same age bracket have dropped out of the count under another measure which means they no longer have to sign on at benefit offices just to get the national insurance credits they need to safeguard their pensions.

After allowing for these two schemes, the underlying increase in unemployment, excluding school-leavers and adjusting for the normal seasonal increases, was 10,100 in July, the smallest rise for more than a year. This compares with an apparent drop in the seasonally adjusted adult total of 3,300 to 2,963,700 (12.4 per cent of the workforce) recorded by the official count, based on people claiming unemployment benefits.

The figures were greeted with a storm of protest by trade union and Opposition leaders who accused the Government of fiddling the figures. Mr David Bissett, chairman of the TUC's economic committee, said the Government had removed more than half a million from the published jobless total by statistical sleight of hand in the past two years.

But the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, who on Wednesday announced a Treasury study on where new jobs could be found, said there were signs of improvement in the jobless picture.

Unemployment was rising more slowly, job vacancies had increased in unemployment.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Tamils shot by soldiers, says leader

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) has alleged that nearly 40 people - students, university lecturers and housewives - were shot by army personnel in the streets and in their homes in the Jaffna area of Sri Lanka during communal violence.

The statement signed by Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, secretary-general of TULF, on August 2, was not circulated in Sri Lanka because of censorship. The Times of India carried that statement on its front page.

TULF says 35 Tamils were massacred in jail. In Trincomalee, "mutinous" members of the Navy and Army, with the assistance of Sinhalese, destroyed and burnt down almost 200 Tamil houses and shops. A Hindu temple was damaged.

"Army personnel actively encouraged arson and looting of business establishments and homes in Colombo and took absolutely no action to apprehend or prevent the criminal elements involved in these activities. In many instances army personnel participated in the looting of shops."

"We strongly believe that the violence could have been contained if the Government had taken prompt action to deal with the rioters and looters. The Government, through inaction, indifference and arrogant failure to mobilize international assistance, expressed its complete contempt for the life and property of Tamil people."

TULF said it has "no confidence in the ability of the Government" to maintain or rehabilitate Tamil refugees and has urged the Government to hand over the job to the Red Cross and the United Nations.

Colombo debate, page 4

Prince will play polo for Scots

Scotland is to have the Prince of Wales representing it against an English Select team in the Polo Home International at Scone Palace, near Perth, on Sunday September 4.

Mr Iain DuBoulay, polo manager of the Dundee and Perth polo club, said yesterday: "The home international is expected to attract a gate of around 5,000. The Prince is an extremely good player in his own right - he plays a four-goal handicap."

Mr DuBoulay added: "I can't see a reason why the Prince of Wales should not be asked to play for either Scotland or England. However, we were first to ask if the Prince would be prepared to play for Scotland."

Mr David Gemmell, one of the four players representing Scotland said: "We knew that the Royal Family would be on holiday at Balmoral and wrote to the Prince."

A magistrates court was told yesterday that a man, named as Dunstan Dunstan, had made a threat to kill the Prince of Wales.

Dunstan, aged 29, who lives on a barge on the Grand Union Canal at Aylesbury, Bucks, was remanded in custody to be examined by psychiatrists.

Supergrass profile, page 3

Supergrass trial

Four IRA men jailed for life

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Four of the Provisional IRA's leading members in Belfast who were informed against by Mr Christopher Black were jailed for life at Belfast Crown Court yesterday for their parts in the murders of a part-time Ulster Defence Regiment soldier and a deputy prison governor.

Another 31 people implicated in the supergrass trial, including five women, will be sentenced today.

Among those jailed yesterday were Kevin Mulgrew, aged 27, leader of Mr Black's Provisional "active service unit" in north Belfast, Charles McKiernan, aged 23, its top hit man, and Gerald Loughlin, aged 27, the commander of the terrorist organization's "third battalion" in the city.

They were all jailed for life by Mr Justice Basil Kelly, a former Unionist MP, after being convicted of the murder of Mr Julian Connolly, a sergeant in the UDR, at his home in the grounds of Belfast Zoo during the height of the hunger strike in 1981.

Kevin Artt, aged 23, received a life sentence after being found guilty of the murder in 1978 of Mr Albert Miles, governor of the Maze Prison, who was shot in his home.

Artt was implicated in the killing by McKiernan, who

received a second life sentence for his part in firing the fatal shot as Mr Miles lay on the floor.

The four men showed no emotion as the judge sentenced them without making any recommendation on how long they should serve, after listening to three hours of pleas for mitigation from lawyers representing the 35 people convicted of a series of terrorist crimes.

Today the judge will continue his sentencing against those convicted, including Mulgrew, who has been found guilty of 50 terrorist crimes including five attempted conspiracies and 11

conspiracies to murder, and McKiernan, convicted of 24 offences including seven conspiracies to murder.

Mulgrew was the mastermind of many conspiracies to murder members of the security forces during 1981 when Mr Black, aged 29, turned informer. McKiernan's skill with a gun earned this comment from Loughlin after the killing of the UDR soldier: "Once I knew McKiernan was doing the job, I knew he (Connolly) was dead."

Mr Tom Cahill, QC, for the defence, described Mr Black as an "evil, ruthless and despicable man" whose evidence had concerned the period of the hunger strike which had been one of the most emotive since the troubles began.

"Young men were dying in prison at that time. It is only fair to point out there was much pain, many tears and sorrows in the Ardoyne at that time and understandably so," he said.

The judge rejected Artt's allegation that his confession had been made under duress. He had sobbed many times for that man since, and for his wife. Why did I have to be me? I could not kill a dog but I killed that man. What is my wife going to think of me?"

Supergrass profile, page 3



The Queen Mother, who was 83 yesterday, waves from the balcony of Clarence House to the crowd below. Report and more photographs, back page.

Brittan may get tough on killers

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is expected to support the extension of minimum 20-year jail sentences for the murder of policemen to cover other categories of officers.

Such an extension would not require legislation, because the decision is within the Home Secretary's discretion.

He is likely to outline his intentions at the Conservative Party Conference in October, where the campaign for a far tougher sentencing policy for murderers will intensify.

Conservative MPs, disappointed by the overwhelming vote of the Commons last month against the death penalty, are now campaigning for much tougher sentences, and some have been urging the end of all possibility of parole for many categories of murder.

That has been reflected in the resolutions sent to Conservative Central Office from local party associations for the annual conference. Up to 100 have been received on law and order.

Sources close to the Home Secretary expect Mr Brittan to resist demands for the ending of parole for certain types of murderers.

But he is expected to build on a statement made in the Commons debate when referring to the fact that none of the 16 adults convicted of murdering policemen since 1965 had been released from prison, and that most of them had been subject to recommendations from the trial judge that they should serve a minimum sentence ranging from 15 to 30 years.

He said then: "I shall ensure that cases where no minimum recommendation has been made are treated in substantially the same way as those where such a recommendation was made. The expectation must be that all such murderers serve at least 20 years and that some may never be released."

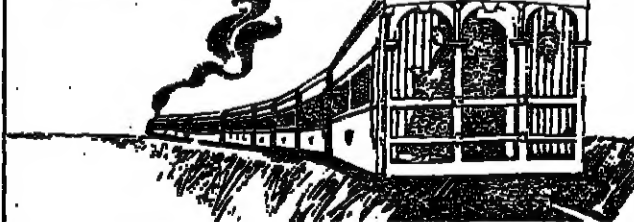
Some of the conference motions demand the return of the death penalty, despite the decisive rejection by the Commons.

To meet the demands of some Tory MPs, who tabled a more wide-ranging Commons motion would require legislation. They urged that the sentence for murder of a police officer or prison officer, for murder committed in the course of theft or by explosion or shooting, and for "other heinous categories of murder" should be for the convicted person's whole life. But Mr Brittan, like home secretaries before him, would be firmly opposed to such a proposal.

Capital punishment for the murder of a prison officer in the course of his duty was rejected in the Commons last month by 348 votes to 252, a majority of 96 votes - the smallest for any category apart from murder of a police officer, which was rejected by 81 votes.

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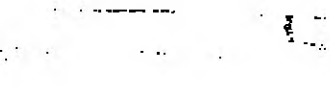
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IRA supergrass who craved fame will always live in fear

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Christopher Black, "a nobody who wanted to be a somebody", has achieved the fame he craved in the strongly nationalist Ardoyne ghetto in north Belfast by giving information which has led to the conviction of 35 people at Belfast Crown Court.

However, his notoriety is not confined to the secret world of the Provisional IRA but to a larger audience, which will remember him as the first Provisional IRA supergrass.

In republican circles he will never be forgiven and it is ironic that it was not because of his skill as a terrorist but because of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, much despised by republicans, that Mr Black's name is established in Northern Ireland.

He may always have wanted to be a somebody but the slight, 5ft 4in man must become a nobody for his own protection and that of his wife, Kathleen, and their four young children.

The paramilitaries seek revenge for his "treachery and betrayal" and as a Provisional Sinn Féin pamphlet said, "his new life will be a worried and uncertain one, forever on the run from any friend of Irish freedom".

It was in November, 1981 that Mr Black was arrested by the RUC after a brief chase, ending the career of a terrorist neither particularly dedicated nor competent and beginning his role as a supergrass.

Mr Black had been sworn

into the Provisional IRA in October, 1975 because he thought "it would be a game, and there would be excitement", and also because he had recently moved into the "Boneyard" of the Ardoyne and felt an outsider.

His first job for the Provisional IRA ended in failure when he and others were caught during an armed robbery at premises where he had worked until a few months previously and when his father and brother still worked.

Sentenced to 10 years in jail, Mr Black was released with remission in December, 1980. He was soon asked to rejoin the Provisional IRA and was given the choice of becoming a member of an "active service unit" or a "company".

He chose the "company", nicknamed "The Sweeney", which was responsible for enforcing discipline in clubs in the Ardoyne area. It also assisted an "active service unit" with terrorist attacks.

After four months Mr Black joined an "active service unit" and found himself among former drinking companions and neighbours.

During the next five months of 1981 Northern Ireland was convulsed by the hunger strike in the Maze prison and Mr Black admitted: "It was the policy of the Provisional IRA to keep the thing on the boil".

In November, 1981 he was arrested with two others after

taking part in an illegal checkpoint as a propaganda stunt for the Provisional publication *Republican News*.

For almost two days in Castlereagh remand centre he remained silent but then, afraid of returning to prison, he began talking. Christopher Black, "converted terrorist" as the RUC euphemistically calls supergrasses, was born.

In an 82-page statement he gave details of the Provisional IRA's command structures in north Belfast, of conspiracies to murder members of the security forces and of arms and ammunition dumps in Co Donegal.

His information led to the arrests of 38 people and seriously undermined Provisional IRA operations in the area.

A six-month survey after the arrests saw murders drop from 11 to three, bombings from 26 to one and shootings from 98 to 42. There had been a 61 per cent reduction in overall terrorist activity compared with six months before the arrests.

Mr Black has been granted immunity from his part in serious crimes. He has changed his identity and the RUC has resettled him. Police "minders" will be with him in the initial stage of his new life, whether it be Australia, South Africa, or nearer home.

"I thought at one time he would retract," his mother Mrs Margaret Black, aged 62, said. "Now Chris is as good as dead."



Lord Denning sitting on the wall dividing him from Whitchurch council (Photograph: John Manning).

Denning's dispute in his own back yard

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, spoke more in sorrow than in anger yesterday of a controversy in his own Hampshire backyard, over a brick wall he has had built.

Three weeks ago, Lord Denning, aged 84, put up the wall in front of a building which he owns, which also adjoins his local town hall, to prevent people using the backyard as an access road.

But then Whitchurch town council complained to the planning authority, Basingstoke and Deane Council, claiming the wall detracted from the appearance of the town hall, a listed Victorian building.

Lord Denning maintains that the building he owns is not listed, and because the wall is in front of it, he is entitled to build it. He said yesterday he was

quite prepared to accommodate anyone who wanted him to change the wall, but he was upset at the way the Whitchurch town council and the Mayor, Mr Graham Clewer, had complained about the wall without talking to him first.

Lord Denning added that he was the last person to want to disfigure the appearance of the town where he was born. He explained he had been trying for years to stop

motorists, in particular young motor cyclists, from using his yard, which backs on to a busy road.

Mr Frank Dowling, conservation officer for the Basingstoke and Deane Council, said Lord Denning probably thought his building was not listed because he or the previous owner had not been approached when the list was drawn up in 1953.

Informers's sister and stepfather held

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

The stepfather and sister of an informer being held by the Irish National Liberation Army yesterday in another attempt to prevent him from giving evidence against 18 people.

Almost three months ago the group abducted Henry Kirkpatrick's wife, Elizabeth, from her parents' home in west Belfast. She is still being held at a secret address, believed to be in Co Donegal.

His stepfather, Mr Richard Hill, and his sister, aged 12, who live in Belfast, were taken from a holiday home near Killybegs, Co Mayo, in the

Irish Republic after a struggle. The Irish National Liberation Army said that in a near future it would give a deadline "by which time Kirkpatrick must have withdrawn his evidence. Failure to do so will result in the immediate execution of all three captives."

Kirkpatrick, aged 25, a former "quartermaster" in the group's Belfast unit, received five life sentences in June when he admitted the murders of two policemen, two members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and a member of the Territorial Army.

Huge bomb attack is foiled

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

An attempt by terrorists to launch a huge bomb attack in Belfast using a milk lorry was foiled yesterday by a motorist who told the police that milk bottles were falling off the lorry.

The bomb, estimated at between 400 and 500lb, was packed in four beer kegs. Last night six men were being questioned by the police. The abortive mission seems to have been terrorist retaliation after the conviction of 35 people on a series of terrorist charges, including membership of the Provisional IRA.

Channel 4 is facing a big argument over subsidy

By David Hewson

Channel 4 faces a heated argument with the independent television network companies in the next few weeks over how much it should receive in subsidy for its 1984-85 season of programmes.

The channel is pressing the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to force the independent television companies to pay 18 per cent of their advertising revenues to the station which is fighting to maintain viewing figures representing 5 per cent of the television audience.

The companies, which are paying the channel £100m this year, are now faced with the prospect of bearing it as a permanent drain on their resources. They believe that the subsidy should be kept around 14 per cent, the lowest figure possible, when the decision comes before the IBA next month.

One senior ITV official said yesterday that the issue was a

crucial one for the industry "because we have to force Channel 4 to live in the real world, just like the rest of us."

"Channel 4 is under no financial pressure at the moment while we have to live with the cost of the Equity dispute. There is still a massive imbalance between what Channel 4 costs us and what we earn from it."

The disagreement poses a difficult decision for the IBA, which owns Channel 4. The channel was largely the creation of an earlier generation in the IBA, whose present authorities are thought to be urging a more pragmatic financial attitude towards independent television matters.

But the arguments seem likely to run in Channel 4's favour. Rebellious talk by some smaller ITV companies, which were pressing for the station to be taken over by the network, has been quashed.

Computer toll booths anger tunnel drivers

From our Correspondent, Liverpool

A computerized automatic toll-gate system installed at a cost of £2m to speed traffic through the two Mersey road tunnels has so far created only delays and arguments between motorists and attendants.

Mersyside County Council brought the booths into operation at the Wallasey tunnel in the spring. Underground sensors detect the size of each vehicle and what toll is due: 40p for a car, 20p for a motor cycle and £1 for a lorry.

In theory each driver throws the correct money into collecting chutes, the cash is counted, the barrier lifts and the line of vehicles moves smoothly on. Some of the booths are manned by an operator who gives change to drivers so that that they can pay.

But in practice the electronic wizardry succeeded only in causing delays of up to an hour on the approach roads. More

trouble is predicted with work starting this week on installing the equipment at the Birkenhead tunnel. Automation of both tunnels is expected to cut staff from 70 to 30.

A Conservative member of the county council is calling for the Wallasey tunnel to be shut while engineers tackle the problems.

Mr Michael Emberton said: "It's unfair on the men in the booths and those controlling the traffic. One of the major problems is that the signs for the correct change lanes are not clear enough."

"The result is that drivers are forced to make split-second decisions. When they discover they have not the right money they have to manoeuvre to a change booth, get the right money then drive forward and put the money in the box."

One motorist said: "It is like a mental agility test trying to get through the tunnel."

20p eases burden on shoppers

By John Lawless

Shoppers are suffering much less from trouser pocket sag and handbag carrying fatigue, it was officially declared yesterday.

Not because wage settlements are being trimmed but because coins are getting lighter, according to the annual report of the Royal Mint. The introduction of the 20p coin has meant that 395 million 10p and 24 million 5p coins were withdrawn by the end of May, the mint's deputy master (chief executive), Dr Jeremy Gerhard reports. One prime objective was to reduce weight.

Dr Gerhard does not comment on whether the 100 million £1 coins now in use will start to put the bulk back. But he adds that initial public reaction to the two new coins "varied from the customary suspicion to considerable enthusiasm".

The 20p piece quickly established itself, and there are now 716 million in circulation. "The £1 coin", Dr Gerhard says, "will take some time to enter circulation fully since much depends on the rate at which ticket and change-giving machines are converted".

The Royal Mint still exports 10 49 countries but demand for United Kingdom produced coins was at a 20-year low last year.

Raging inflation in Latin American countries, means that some have stopped using coins entirely. But the Mint still managed to stay in the black, although its operating surplus sank from £8.2m to £4.9m.

Record for Channel swimmer

Alison Streeter, aged 18, wobbled her way out of the water at St Margaret's Bay, Kent, at 3.30am yesterday, the first British woman to swim the Channel both ways non-stop.

She had been in the sea for 21 hours 16 minutes. Salt water had left her throat raw and the rocks of Cap Gris Nez had cut her feet and legs.

The worst moments for the swimmer, a dealer's clerk with Standard Chartered Bank in the City, were on Tuesday evening when the sun, which had warmed her back, went down.

"It became windy and the waves were strong", Miss Streeter, from Nutfield, Surrey, said. "You have to keep chopping and changing your stroke according to the length of waves, and that is very tiring."

Wet and cold, she started feeding more regularly, treading water while her pilot and the Channel Swimming observer handed out refreshment and encouragement.

In her head she sang through a tape of heavy rock music, which makes me more aggressive. Classical music tends to slow me down."

Previous Channel doubles have been recorded by four men and a Canadian woman. Miss Streeter's time of 9 hours 22 minutes from Shakespeare Beach, Dover, to France, and 11 hours 54 minutes back was 2 hours 21 minutes behind the fastest.

Last year she did a one-way Channel crossing in 11 hours,



Alison Streeter: Home and dry.

21 minutes. She also has several double crossings from Southampton to the Isle of Wight to her credit. "Next year I am thinking of going round the island", she said.

Her double Channel crossing, was made "because I wanted to do it for myself", but it has also benefited research into leukaemia from which a friend died last March.

The bank paid the £1,000 cost of the swim. Pilot fees were £900. When sponsorship money is collected Miss Streeter expects to have raised about £2,000 for the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey.

Dons vote on a degree of change

Oxford University is considering whether to change its way of classifying the degree of its 2,000 graduates who each year are awarded second-class degrees by dividing them into upper and lower seconds.

Oxford graduates have always had either a first second or third-class degree. Other universities classify second-class degrees as upper or lower seconds, which makes it easier for prospective employers to determine whether a job applicant narrowly missed a first or just avoided a third. More than three quarters of Oxford graduates get seconds.

There is a strong feeling at the university against a change because examination papers from students in the middle of the second class would have to be scrutinized much more carefully to ensure that the division was fair.

Dons voted against a similar proposal seven years ago.

Seaford railway 100 years old

Flags waved and a band played at Brighton yesterday to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the start of the world's oldest public electric railway, which runs for a mile along the seaford.

The narrow gauge train carried more than 300,000 passengers last year, and the total number carried is more than 38 million. One passenger for the centenary drive was Mr Conrad Volk, aged 83, of Sevenoaks, Kent, son of Mr Magnus Volk, who built the railway.

Death crash sign taped in place

An important road sign on the North Circular Road at Edmonstone, north London, where a motor cyclist was killed last December, is still being held in place with tape because of public-spendings.

Dr David Paul, the Horary coroner, was told yesterday that the sign with a 30 mph restriction on one side and a warning on the other was wobbly in the wind when Mr Robert Midway, aged 18, of Woodford Green, north London crashed there.

Satellite Television will be on air 5 hours a night

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Satellite Television, whose programmes could be the first to be beamed by satellite into British homes, has published the details of its novel channel. It will broadcast five hours every evening during prime time from next January.

The company, which is 65 per cent owned by News International, which runs Times Newspapers, *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, has sent letters to potential cable operators offering them a channel containing a mix of music, sport, news, comedy, films and light entertainment.

The channel will transmit for five hours nightly between 5.50 pm and 10.30 pm on the new European communication satellite ECS-1. Cable television operators

will in turn transmit the programmes along their networks into homes. Each operator will be charged 10p a month for every subscriber to the service, which will be funded largely by pan-European advertising of six minutes in every hour, similar to the quota established for the IBA.

Sponsorship of programming is expected after the Government has set up the Satellite Television authority to supervise the industry.

The Government has invited applications for 12 cable television franchises, which are expected to be awarded in November.

The BBC yesterday confirmed its commitment to its direct satellite television project.

Plastic flowers awarded show prize

A display of plastic flowers, in a Devon seaside amusement arcade has been awarded a prize by flower show judges.

Second place in the Dawlish Britain in Bloom's commercial section went to Harrison's Arcade.

When the mistake was uncovered, the resort's mayor, Mr Edwin Thomson, chairman of the local Britain in Bloom committee, said: "The judges knew straightaway the flowers were plastic but they were themselves wailing after a long hard day's work. The results were typed out hurriedly and that is when the error was made."

Mr Tony Riches, the arcade manager, said the prize had been a pleasant surprise. "We have a very colourful display which has been here for years."

VICTORIA WINE

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85p
25cl can

Nicola wine in cans
Just pull back the metal ring and you'll find two generous glasses of top quality French table wine.

3.45
LITRE

Paul Masson Californian Rosé
Fruitier than most rosés, this is a wine of character. It's really jolly good!

Sansovino 2-litres
The choice of an excellent medium dry white or a light fruity red wine. Italy at its best!
2 LITRES 5.49

Rougemont Castle
The best of British wines! Light white, fruity and at this price, painless to the pocket.
3 LITRE BOX 6.29

Nicolas Litres
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LITRE 3.19

5% CASE DISCOUNT
Applies to unopened cases only.

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WINE SELECTION MADE EASY
All white wines at Victoria Wine are coded 1 to 9. 1 denotes the driest, 9 the sweetest. Most of our red wines are graded firstly as Soft (S) or Firm (F), and secondly as Big (B), Medium (M) or Light (L) in body.

All offers subject to availability and alterations to duty or V.A.T. By law we are not allowed to sell alcohol to anyone under 18.

Survey confirms top prestige of Oxford and Cambridge

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Oxford and Cambridge universities are considered by other academics to have some of the best departments in both teaching and research, according to a survey published today. The results of the survey, carried out for the second successive year by the Times Higher Education Supplement, will cause some raised hackles in higher education circles, if only because ranking departments in order of merit is a controversial business. They show that in the four subjects chosen for the survey, chemistry, French, politics and architecture, Oxford and Cambridge are considered by their peers to be the best, or often among the best. In chemistry the top research and teaching departments are Cambridge, Oxford, and Imperial College, London. In French, Cambridge and Oxford again come top in research. Top of the teaching quality table is Oxford but Cambridge is pushed into fourth place by Leeds and Bradford. Five universities dominated the politics research league table - Oxford, Manchester, the London School of Economics, Essex and Strathclyde. The teaching ranking is more confused, with Exeter coming third, LES fourth and Hull fifth. In architecture the research table is led by Cambridge and the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College, London. Top in the teaching ranking comes the Architectural Association. The heads of department of the four subjects in all British universities and polytechnics

which offer them are asked six questions: which they considered to be the best five departments in their subject for teaching and research; and how many books or articles had been published by staff in the department; the average Universities Central Council on Admission (UCCA) score of undergraduate entrants in the departments; and which other department they would most like to work in. The tables were compiled by awarding five points for a first place, four for a second, and so on (see following tables).

The UCCA scores, publications achieved and preferred choice of department ended to mirror the research and teaching pecking orders. But the funding did not. The LSE, for example, on only £90,000 in external funding over three years compared with Brunel's £400,000.

Oxford came top of the chemistry publications table with 33 books and 1,594 articles in the past five years; in French, Aston had the best record with 18 books and 113 articles; the LSE was a powerhouse of research with 50 books and 250 articles in politics; Strathclyde topped the publications on architecture with nine books, 147 articles and 51 occasional papers. Favoured alternative places to work were dominated by Oxford and Cambridge.

The first survey, published last December, covered physics, history, economics and civil engineering. The higher education supplement intends that the survey should be a regular exercise.

CHEMISTRY

'Research' rank	Points	'Teaching' rank	Points
Cambridge	50	Cambridge	35
Oxford	30	Oxford	35
London (Imperial College)	20	Durham University	13
(of which Imperial College)	20	Bristol University	13
Bristol University	15	Nottingham University	10
Southampton	10	University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff	10
Nottingham University	10	Edinburgh	9
Leeds University	8	Queen's University, Belfast	9
Edinburgh	8	Aberdeen	7
Sussex	7	Loughborough	7
		Sheffield	7
		Manchester University	6
		Glasgow University	6

FRENCH

'Research' rank	Points	'Teaching' rank	Points
Cambridge	50	Oxford	35
Oxford	30	Leeds	25
London (Imperial College)	20	Bradford	25
(of which Imperial College)	20	Cambridge	25
Queen Mary College	15	Sussex	15
St Andrews	15	Cardiff	12
Bristol	12	St Andrews	12
Reading	12	Reading	12
Sussex	12	Edinburgh	10
Edinburgh	12	Reading	10
Warwick	10	Leeds	10
Leeds	10	Durham	8
Exeter	10	Warwick	8
Manchester	8	Aston	8
Bradford	7	Bristol	8
Portsmouth Polytechnic	7	Portsmouth Polytechnic	8
Kent	6	Hull	6
Durham	6	Manchester	6
		Salford	6
		Surrey	6

POLITICS

'Research' rank	Points	'Teaching' rank	Points
Oxford	104	London School of Economics	25
Manchester	77	Warwick	14
London School of Economics	77	Keele	14
Essex	76	Reading	14
Strathclyde	47	Essex	14
Hull	28	Lancaster	12
Warwick	10	Cambridge	11
Cambridge	10	Newcastle	11
Exeter	8	Leeds	10
Lancaster	8	Leicester	7
		Strathclyde	7
		Durham	7
		Sussex	6
		North Staffordshire Polytechnic	6
		Wolverhampton Polytechnic	6
		Edinburgh	6

ARCHITECTURE

'Research' rank	Points	'Teaching' rank	Points
Cambridge	15	Architectural Association	15
London - Bartlett School of Architecture, University College	28	Canterbury College of Art	14
Strathclyde	10	London - Bartlett School of Architecture, University College	13
Edinburgh	10	Architectural Association	13
Liverpool	6	Canterbury College of Art	13
Manchester	6	Nottingham	11
		Manchester	9
		Edinburgh	9
		Heriot-Watt	6

The points system is explained in the text

Campaign to keep old paper mill chimney

A village is fighting to save the type of landscape most people would like to see demolished, a mill chimney which has been standing for 150 years. The last puff of smoke belched from Smokey Joe 10 years ago when the paper mill closed. The residents, near Chorley, in Lancashire, are hoping to stop a demolition because the chimney is part of their heritage. The rest of the paper mill has been cleared for new homes.

Privatization upsets tidy village contest

Hundreds of villages in Yorkshire have lost the chance to shine in the annual best kept village contest because British Telecom privatization measures have left the public telephone boxes filthy. Mr John Howarth, a Conservative councillor and contest organizer, from Hutton, near York said yesterday: "In almost every report the judges note the muck in the kiosks. British Telecom said: 'We appreciate these complaints and will attend to them.'"

Grain stocks holding well

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The heavy rains of recent days have done little to hinder Britain's growing grain challenge to EEC book-keeping. The National Farmers' Union said after a survey of regional officers that the grain was still coming in steadily. Many crops are still unusually dry, which means that for many farmers corn drying costs will be lower than in previous years. Yields are expected to be lower than last year's record because of difficulties in establishing crops in the wet weather earlier this year and because of disease in some areas. But Britain's remaining share of last year's grain mountain is substantial. Britain has exported well over four million tonnes of grain in the past 12 months.

Mobutu wins Washington praise

Libya bombs more Chad towns

N'Djamena (Reuters) - The Chad Government said Libya's air force had extended its bombing attacks in northern Chad. It called again on friendly governments to provide air cover.

Chad's Information Minister, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, denied rebel claims that the north-eastern towns of Kalait and Oum Chalouba, recaptured two weeks ago, had fallen again to former President Goukouni Oueddei's Libyan-backed insurgents. But both places had been attacked by Libyan fighter-bombers as the northern town of Faya-Largeau had been submitted to intensive air raids for the sixth day.

"A quick air intervention from friendly countries is necessary to dissuade Libya from continuing its deadly air attacks," Mr Soumaila said. The Government has repeated requests for air cover to France, its main military backer, but they have been rejected.

The French Government has insisted that it will stick to the letter of a 1976 military cooperation agreement which bars outright intervention, but it has agreed to supply Chad with anti-aircraft weapons, a first consignment of which was expected in N'Djamena yesterday.

The arrival of a first consignment of US Red-eye heat-seeking missiles was also imminent, military sources said. They did not expect American technicians, due to be flown in with the weapons, to go up to the front to teach Chad troops how to use them.

Libya has repeatedly denied that its ground troops and air force are involved in the fighting, but diplomatic sources in N'Djamena said there was little doubt that Libyan jets were raiding Faya-Largeau.

WASHINGTON: President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, whose "courageous role" in sending troops to Chad to combat Libyan-backed dissidents has been praised by American officials, held talks with President Reagan yesterday (Mohsin Ali writes). In Washington on a short working visit, and the military situation in Chad was worsening as Libyan bombing intensified. Zaire has sent more than 1,500 troops and six aircraft to support the pro-Western Government troops of President Hissene Habre.

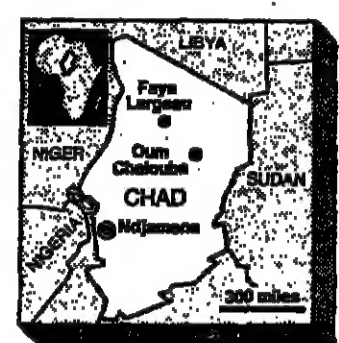
NEW YORK: Chad and



Reagan's Redeye: A US Marine demonstrates the shoulder-fired anti-aircraft weapon being sent to Chad.

Libya traded charges and insults as the United Nations Security Council opened its debate on the new phase of fighting between the Chad forces and the Libyan-backed rebels (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes). Accusing Libya of genocide Mr Ramandane Barma, the Chad representative, called on the council to order Libya to remove its forces from Chad. Mr Awad Burwin, representing Libya, said the fighting was purely internal.

TUNIS: Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, yesterday gave a warning of a worsening in Arab-US relations because of American "acts of provocation" near the Libyan coast (AFP reports). His statement comes after an incident in the Gulf of Sirte between Libyan aircraft and fighters from US aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean earlier this week. Leading article, page 11



Nigerians vote tomorrow

Shagari gets tumultuous greeting

From Francois-Xavier Harispe (Agence France-Presse) Ilorin, Nigeria

A sea of thousands of raised arms fills the municipal stadium, the index fingers all pointing to the sky symbolizing "One nation, one destiny", the slogan of President Shehu Shagari's National Party (NPN).

The noise is overwhelming as tens of thousands of supporters chant party slogans while Mr Shagari rises to speak, not as President but as a candidate in the presidential election beginning tomorrow.

Mr Shagari, who will be facing five other candidates, lists his achievements during the four years since he was elected civilian President to replace the military government. He lists peace, stability, national unity, democracy - the themes already highlighted by earlier speakers when they prepared the ground.

The President speaks from a dais painted in the party colours, blue white and green, but he is preaching mainly to

the converted party faithful who began to gather soon after dawn. The location is the municipal stadium in Ilorin, capital of Kwara state.

Ilorin lies to the south of the river Niger, yet still well north of Lagos, the capital. It is neither the Muslim North where the NPN and its presidential candidate can count on a full house at every rally, nor is it the deep South, be it Christian or animist.

The first round of the presidential elections tomorrow marks the start of five-tier general elections which will also produce a renewed Senate, Federal House of Representatives, and 19 state governors and state houses of assembly.

Ilorin is the last important stop on the President's campaign trail. The slogans change with each speaker, but the theme is constant: "One Nigeria, one destiny, one God." Mr Shagari cries to the crowd in this lay state, "NPN superpower" shouts Mr Saleh Jamba, a northern tycoon who has long supported the party campaigns.

The crowd loudly responds to each slogan until without warning the President leaves. His departure signals a rush by the crowd, raising a huge cloud of dust as thousands of supporters try to get a closer look at their man.

LAGOS: Thousands of paramilitary police were deployed in big Nigerian towns yesterday in a show of force aimed at deterring trouble in the election (Reuters reports).

Dozens of lorries led by water-cannon vehicles swept through Lagos carrying steel-helmeted men as the Government mounted what was expected to be the biggest nationwide security operation since the end of a bloody 30-month civil war in 1970.

There are widely held fears that violence could mar Nigeria's first civilian-run elections for almost 20 years. If trouble erupts it is expected to centre on the polling booths at which there are elaborate plans to prevent ballot-rigging. President Shagari is expected to win again in a tight race.

Five killed in Ciskei township

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

Five people have been shot dead and 22 injured in clashes with police in South Africa's "independent" Ciskei township where a bitter feud is raging between the Sebe brothers who run it, according to reports yesterday.

The police were called to the township of Mdantsane on the outskirts of East London where a state of emergency was declared on Tuesday night after three children were badly injured when a house was petrol-bombed and two other houses were stoned.

Late last month, President Lennox Sebe of the Ciskei cut short a visit to Israel amid reports that a coup was being plotted in his absence. He dismissed his brother, Lieutenant General Charles Sebe, as head of the Homeland's armed forces and intelligence organization and later ordered his arrest. Several other senior officials have been detained.

Kennedy adds voice to public's war fears

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan's Central American policy is encountering intense national hostility and heading for a renewed congressional clash over the huge display of military might now being positioned in the region.

An opinion poll published yesterday demonstrated that there is widespread fear that the US is drifting towards a Vietnam-style conflict. The Democrats, sensing that Central America will be an important election issue, has brought in big names like Senator Edward Kennedy to emphasize that the US may be heading for war.

They have submitted a Bill in both Houses requiring the specific approval of Congress before military manoeuvres can be held abroad. The aim of the Bill which has no real prospect of succeeding is to halt the military exercises in and around Honduras that will begin this month and continue until January.

The Navy confirmed yesterday that it will commit a total of 16,000 men to the exercises, though not necessarily all at the same time. About 5,000 military personnel will be on the ground in Honduras.

The renewed Democratic campaigning of opposition was launched at a press conference with dire warnings of war involving US troops in Central America.

Mr Kennedy said: "We are here today out of deep and growing concern that the Reagan Administration, in the absence of any confrontation with Congress, has put our country on a track towards war." The Administration is now trying to calm fears about possible confrontation and has markedly stepped up its communications with congressional leaders, who complained bitterly that they learned of the military manoeuvres in the press.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, met congressional leaders at a two-hour breakfast session and emphasized that the aim was not to become involved militarily. He promised to follow up the diplomatic overtures by President Fidel Castro of Cuba, who has suggested the withdrawal of all foreign advisers and military involvement in the region.

Mr Richard Stone, the US special envoy to Central America, has briefed President Reagan on his last shuttle mission to the region, during which he made contact with left-wing forces and asked them to take part in peace negotiations and elections. The Kissinger commission on Central America, which has been mandated by President Reagan to investigate long-term policies in the region, is to hold its first meeting next week. At some stage all 12 members will go to Central America, and Dr Henry Kissinger, its chairman, may make a trip alone.

An opinion poll published by The Washington Post delivered another serious propaganda blow to Mr Reagan's strategy. Fewer than half the people questioned believed his assertion that American soldiers will not be sent to fight in Central America.



Gas cloud injures 38 and closes autobahn

Erkelenz, West Germany (AFP) - A fertilizer plant fire sent a poisonous cloud of chlorine gas drifting toward a small West German town, sending 38 people to the hospital, police said yesterday.

Eight policemen and 12 civilians were released after treatment for eye irritations, while 18 farmers were sent to the hospital for precautionary check-ups, authorities said.

No evacuation was ordered, but police closed a nearby autobahn and advised residents of surrounding towns to cover their doors and windows with wet sheets to keep out gases.

Manet's pull

Paris - The power of the French Impressionist has been confirmed again by the exhibition of works by Manet, which will close at the Grand Palais on Monday after being on view since April 23. The show closes a week later than planned originally and about 773,000 people will have paid to see the 221 works.

Nkomo still MP

Harare - Debate on the Zimbabwe Government motion to depose Mr Joshua Nkomo of his parliamentary seat was adjourned for the second day running yesterday and will resume on August 17. No reason was given.

Maseru bomb

Johannesburg - A car bomb exploded in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, yesterday close to government offices, five minutes before civil servants were due to go out to lunch. Nobody was injured but buildings were damaged and windows shattered.

Brazil floods

Rio de Janeiro, (Reuters) - Dozens of people are known to have died and thousands have been left homeless as a result of the floods which have hit southern Brazil over the past month, according to state and civil defence officials.

Horses stolen

St Omer, France (AFP) - Four racing horses, including a valuable breeding mare, were stolen yesterday from stables at Wismar near Paris. A year-old colt, Romeo d'Arc, worth £25,000 was among the missing animals.

Four to die

Accra (Reuters) - Four men accused of conspiring to overthrow the Ghanaian government in June have been sentenced to death by a public tribunal. Seven others were given 18-year prison terms.

Newton fund

Sydney (AFP) - The Australian Professional Golfers' Association has launched a special fund to aid Jack Newton, badly injured when he walked into the propeller of a small aircraft on July 24.

Safety skid

Karachi (AP) - A Pan Am jumbo jet carrying 243 passengers and crew skidded off the runway into a muddy field while landing in rain at Karachi international airport. No one was injured.

White swallow

Vienna (Reuters) - An extremely rare white swallow was spotted nesting in northern Bulgaria's Bozha Pass this week. Ornithologists say albino swallows appear only once in 50 to 70 years.

Plague death

Greenville, South Carolina, (AFP) - A 13-year-old girl died here of Bubonic Plague, the second person to die of the disease this year, health officials said.

Youde content

Hongkong (AFP) - Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hongkong, has returned from Sino-British talks in Peking on the territory's future, and said his trip had been "useful".

Parlez Breton?

Reims (AFP) - Welsh and Irish writers and university professors have joined US colleagues in urging President Mitterand to establish a degree in the Breton language.

Premier quits

Rarotonga (Reuters) - Mr Geoffrey Henry, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, has resigned, leaving the self-governing Pacific territory without an elected government.

Correction

A report on July 23 incorrectly stated that a giant panda cub had just died at the National Zoo in Washington. The first giant panda born in captivity, it was the sixth cub in captivity, outside China and the first in the United States.

Italy's 44th post-war government

Craxi keeps date with history

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi has kept the appointment with history he long promised himself by becoming Italy's first Socialist Prime Minister. Now that he has been able formally to announce his acceptance, as well as his choice of ministers, the way is open for him to show his stature.

He is almost unique in the public's history in never having held any ministry before becoming Prime Minister. The one precedent goes back to the early post-liberation days.

Many commentators point out, moreover, that the price he agreed to pay his allies for the chance of leading a government is high, and he will need to show expertise in diplomacy and manoeuvring if he is to move comparatively freely at the head of his five-party coalition.

He allowed his own party's position inside the government to be severely reduced in exchange for the prime ministership, losing for his followers the Ministries of Defence and Finance which they held in the outgoing Administration.

Though his visit to President Pertini yesterday was historic, it had elements of a last-minute scramble. He arrived 10 minutes late in some tension. His nominee for Deputy Prime Minister, Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Christian Democrat, was said to have withdrawn his name because of differences with his own party leaders. This little tempest was settled only, it was said, through the intervention of President Pertini.

Signor Craxi waited 20 minutes at the palace, after he had left the President, before reading out his ministerial list. It had had to be retyped, suggesting a number of last-minute changes.

The one touch of emotion and pleasure that Signor Craxi

showed was when he began reading the list, saying "Prime Minister - yours truly."

Signor Craxi strengthened the executive by persuading two party secretaries to take ministries. Signor Giovanni Spadolini, the Republican leader, takes Defence, and Signor Pietro Longo, the Social Democratic secretary, has Budget.

As a rule party secretaries prefer to be outside government and are frequently a nuisance to the Prime Minister. Signor Craxi is the unchallenged leader of his own party, and so the only secretaries who remain outside are the Christian Democrat and the Liberal, leaders of the biggest and the smallest of the coalition parties.

The full Cabinet is as follows: Prime Minister: Bettino Craxi (Soc. Dem.); Deputy Prime Minister: Arnaldo Forlani (C. Dem.); Regions: Pier Luigi Romita (Soc. Dem.); Public Administration: Ramo Gaspari (C. Dem.); Relations with Parliament: Oscar Merlino (Rep.); Civil Defence: Vincenzo Scotti (C. Dem.); EEC Policy: Francesco Forte (Soc.); Scientific Research: Luigi Granelli (C. Dem.); Southern Development: Salvatore De Vito (C. Dem.); Foreign Affairs: Giulio Andreotti (C. Dem.); Interior: Oscar Scalfaro (C. Dem.); Justice: Mino Martinazzoli (C. Dem.); Budget: Pietro Longo (S. Dem.); Finance: Bruno Visentini (Rep.); Treasury: Giovanni Soria (C. Dem.); Defence: Giovanni Spadolini (Rep.); Education: Franco Falcucci (C. Dem.); Public Works: Franco Nicolazzi (S. Dem.); Agriculture: Filippo Pandolfi (C. Dem.); Transport: Claudio Signorile (Soc.); Posts: Antonio Gava (C. Dem.); Industry: Renato Altissimo (Lib.); Labour: Gianni De Michelis (Soc.); Foreign Trade: Nicola Capria (Soc.); Merchant Navy: Gianuario Carta (C. Dem.); State Participation: Cello Dario (C. Dem.); Health: Costante Degan (C. Dem.); Tourism: Lello Lagorio (Soc.); Cultural Heritage: Antonio Gualtieri (C. Dem.); Ecology: Alfredo Biondi (Lib.).



'Yours truly': Signor Craxi reading out his Cabinet list at the Quirinale Palace yesterday.

Genscher apologizes over blood throwing

Bonn (Reuter). - Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, in a telegram to Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, yesterday expressed outrage over an incident in which a Greens Party parliamentarian threw blood at an American general.

The attack drew widespread condemnation from other political leaders and newspapers and seemed likely to embarrass West Germany's anti-nuclear protest movement.

Herr Frank Schwaiblmair, a radical Greens deputy in the Hesse state assembly, poured a bottle of his own blood over General Paul Williams during an official ceremony in honour of US forces in the Hesse capital of Wiesbaden yesterday.

He said the action was in protest at Reagan Administration policies in Central America and the planned deployment of US medium-range missiles in Western Europe later this year.

Herr Genscher told Mr Schultz that President Reagan's commitment to peace and West German security "should put to shame those who were involved in this inexcusable and unworthy behaviour towards General Williams."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) strongly condemned the attack, while the Greens national leadership maintained silence.

Johannes Rau, the Social Democrat Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, in a statement issued on behalf of President Karl Carstens, who is on holiday, apologized to General Williams and the American people.

Pressure grows on Mitterrand

Sale of French reserves fails to revive ailing franc

From Roger Beadwood, Paris

The Banque de France has this week strained its dwindling reserves by selling more than \$100m (£66m), and DM50m (£19.5m) in the hope of strengthening the franc against those two key currencies - to no avail.

It remains at more than 8 francs to the dollar - its lowest ever - a clear signal that the foreign exchange markets have little faith in France's economic future.

Opinion polls show that a rising number of French people share that pessimism. On the economic front everything seems to be unravelling at once.

President Mitterrand and Socialist Party came to power in 1981 with the help of a pledge that they would first halt and then reverse the rise in unemployment. The latest figures prove their powerlessness to keep that promise.

In June, 2,030,000 people were registered as unemployed - 10.2 per cent of the labour force. This compares with 9.1 per cent the previous year. The really worrying figure was a 73 per cent rise in the long-term unemployed in the same period. There has also been a steep drop

in the number of unfilled vacancies.

At this week's cabinet meeting M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, reiterated the Government's determination to create new jobs and even radiated some optimism. "The rate of inflation continues to slow," he said "and the balance of payments is improving over the long term."

What worries French people more is the short term. Since the Government announced its policy of "rigour" last March the French have suffered their fair share of shocks.

A compulsory loan from taxpayers, equivalent to 10 per cent of taxes on income and wealth, and a levy of 1 per cent of taxable income, to finance social security, are expected to bring in between 25 billion and 30 billion francs (between £2.08 billion and £2.5 billion) - equivalent to 1.3 per cent of private consumption.

Taxes have been raised on petrol, diesel fuel, heating oil, tobacco and spirits. The likely result is a drop of about 1 per cent in private consumption (at an annual rate) before the end of the year.

The Government is slashing public spending by about 10 billion francs in an attempt to hold its budget deficit to the equivalent of 3 per cent of gross domestic product. State-owned firms are making further cuts of some 12 billion francs. The package will reduce gross fixed investment - according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - by about 1.5 per cent in 1984.

The new fall of the franc against the dollar (after three devaluations) is likely to balloon the estimated balance of payments deficit this year of \$9.2 billion (£6 billion). And higher oil prices in francs will further twist the inflationary spiral.

Inflation is thus likely to remain well above that in France's main trading partners.

In theory, a cheaper franc should raise demands for exports. But two factors are likely to blunt that hope. The first is that many manufacturers will be tempted not to pass on all the exchange rate savings to customers.

The second factor is the producers' ability to respond rapidly to increased demand

Court told of Malta death plot

From a Correspondent, Valletta

An Algerian witness yesterday testified before a magistrates' court that Anthony Price an deserter from the Welsh Guards, had planned with a Tunisian to assassinate the Prime Minister of Malta. A third person involved in the alleged plot was said to be a German woman who remains unknown.

The police, yesterday presented their evidence to support the charge of taking part in a conspiracy to subvert the government of Malta by taking up arms against it.

The magistrates will decide on Monday to send Mr Price for trial by jury.

The main witness yesterday was Mr Danyal Baouya, who testified that he had acted as interpreter to Mr Price and a Tunisian called Ben Arous as they discussed the various stages of the alleged plan.



DC10's successor: This artist's impression shows the MD110, a three-engine jet being introduced by the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation of California, which will replace the ill-starred DC10.

Junta refuses MEP visa

By Patricia Clough

Mr Alfred Lomas, a British Member of the European Parliament, said yesterday that he had been refused a visa to visit Argentina with nine MEPs from other countries. No explanation was given, but Mr Lomas assumed the reason was his frequent criticism of the Argentine regime.

The delegation, which plans to look into the disappearance of political prisoners and to contact democratic groups emerging in Argentina, arrived in Buenos Aires on Sunday. Mr Lomas said he had been writing to the Argentine authorities for many years. "It is ironic that I was opposed to the British Government's action in the Falklands and favoured a negotiated rather than a military solution."

Pakistan deadline for atom tenders extended

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Pakistan's plan to build its nuclear power plant at Chashma, in the Mianwali district of north-west Punjab, seems to have run into snags. Two days after the time limit for international tenders had passed the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is said to have set a new deadline.

There has been no official explanation for the extension. It is believed, however, that

prospective contractors are still not sure they can do the job effectively in view of the opposition from the United States and some other Western governments.

These governments have objected because Pakistan has not signed the non-proliferation treaty. President Zia ul-Haq has recently reiterated that he will not sign the treaty unless India also signs.

Six dismissed in Betancur shake-up

Bogotá (Reuter). - President Belisario Betancur of Colombia has dismissed six Cabinet ministers and reassigned two others in a government reorganization that followed changes in the high commands of the Army, Navy and police.

A presidential communiqué on Wednesday night said five of the 13 Cabinet ministers retained their posts. They were the ministers of defence, foreign affairs, finance, mines and energy, and communications.

The reshuffle followed the resignation on Tuesday of 10

ministers and the announcement of what the President called routine changes in the leadership of the security forces.

Señor Rodrigo Escobar Navia, Minister of the Interior, replaced Señor Jaime Arias Ramírez as head of the Ministry of Education, and Señor Arias Ramírez took over the Ministry of Health. Señor Alfonso Gomez was given the Ministry of the Interior.

The new Cabinet still has six members of President Betancur's Conservative Party. The

other seven belong to the Liberal Party.

No official explanation was given for the restructuring of the administration.

Following is the Colombian Cabinet after the reshuffle: Defence: General Fernando Landolfi Reyes; Foreign Affairs: Rodrigo Escobar Navia; Interior: Alfonso Gomez; Finance: Edgar Gutierrez; Agriculture: Rodrigo Marin Bernal; Mines and Energy: Carlos Martinez; Labour: Guillermo Gonzalez; Justice: Rodrigo Lara Bonilla; Health: Jaime Arias Ramirez; Public Works: Herman Buitrago; Communications: Bernardo Ramirez; Education: Rodrigo Escobar Navia.

Lloyds Bank Group results for the half-year ended 30 June 1983

"There are some welcome signs of economic recovery, but this has not yet brought significant relief to companies and countries in difficulty, so our provisions for bad and doubtful debts are again high. Nevertheless, many parts of our business have produced good results, and profits have recovered from the lower level of the previous half-year."

Jeremy Morse
Chairman

Interim dividend

The directors of Lloyds Bank Plc have declared an interim dividend on account of the year ending 31 December 1983 of 10.66p per share (1982: 9.92p), payable on 2 September 1983 to shareholders registered on 5 August 1983. With the related tax credit the payment is equivalent to a gross dividend of 15.3p (1982: 14.2p).

Comment on results

For the first six months of 1983, on a historical cost basis, Group profit before taxation at £193.7 million (619p) up on the second half of 1982, but £9.1 million (49p) down on the first half. On a current cost basis, profit before taxation was £153.9 million (1982 second half: £86.6 million; first half: £144.9 million). Results were again substantially affected by the charge for bad and doubtful debts of £119.8 million (1982 second half: £156.8 million; first half: £62.1 million) reflecting the continuing difficult economic conditions in many parts of the world.

Domestic

Average base rate was 10.4% compared with 10.5% for the second half and 13.4% for the first half of 1982. Over the last six months current account balances grew with inflation, but as advances continued to increase at a faster rate there was increased dependence on interest-bearing deposits and margins narrowed. As the volume of our business grew, costs also increased but were largely covered by a rise in non-funds-based income. After taking account of the charge for bad and doubtful debts, profits were higher than the second half of 1982, but lower than the first half of the year.

Despite increased provisions, operating profits of Lloyds and Scottish were up on both half years of 1982, as a result of a more buoyant market and lower funding costs.

International

The continuing problems of individual companies and countries were reflected in a heavy charge for bad and doubtful debts, but earnings were well up on the second half of 1982 and also ahead on the first half of the year. This trend was mainly reflected in the results of the principal international subsidiary, Lloyds Bank International, where the increase in other operating income helped pre-tax profits at £70.3 million to recover well from the figure of £15.6 million in the second half of 1982 and slightly exceed the first half of £67.4 million.

Group profit (historical cost basis)

(unaudited)	6 months ended 30 June 1983 (£ million)	6 months ended 31 December 1982 (£ million)	6 months ended 30 June 1982 (£ million)
Operating profit of Lloyds Bank Plc and subsidiaries	196.0	122.2	208.7
Share of profits of associated companies	16.8	30.7	15.2
	212.8	152.9	223.9
Interest on loan capital	19.1	22.9	21.1
Profit before taxation	193.7	120.0	202.8
Taxation	4		
Lloyds Bank Plc and subsidiaries	57.0	22.4	44.5
Associated companies	7.0	6.1	6.8
	64.0	28.5	51.3
Profit after taxation	129.7	91.5	151.5
Minority interests	4.2	4.6	2.6
Profit before extraordinary item	125.5	86.7	148.9
Extraordinary item	(11.8)	6.9	-
Profit attributable to the shareholders of Lloyds Bank Plc	123.7	93.6	148.9
Dividend	20.6	27.8	18.9
Profit retained	103.1	65.8	130.0
Basic earnings per £1 share	65.0p	45.5p	78.6p
Fully diluted earnings per £1 share	64.1p	44.4p	76.0p
Dividend per £1 share (gross equivalent)	10.66p (15.3p)	14.60p (20.9p)	9.92p (14.3p)

NOTES

1 The Lloyds Bank Group has changed its accounting policy on foreign currency translation following the issue of Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No 20. Amounts required to maintain the value of the local working capital in countries experiencing hyper-inflation have been set against interest income earned in the countries concerned. Other exchange differences on translation of overseas working capital have been taken direct to reserves, whereas previously they were dealt with in the profit and loss account. Comparative figures have been restated. The effect of this change in accounting policy has been to reduce the profit before and after taxation by £11 million in the six months ended 30 June 1983.

2 These results include six months to 31 March for Lloyds Bank International Limited and certain other subsidiaries which, as announced by the Chairman at the annual general meeting, are changing their accounting dates this year from 30 September to 31 December. The Group results for 1983 will be announced in early March 1984.

3 Analysis of the operating profit of Lloyds Bank Plc and subsidiaries:

	6 months ended 30 June 1983 (£ million)	6 months ended 31 December 1982 (£ million)	6 months ended 30 June 1982 (£ million)
Interest income	2,082.8	2,126.6	2,099.8
Interest expense	1,454.4	1,510.3	1,514.0
Net interest income	628.4	616.3	585.8
Provisions for bad and doubtful debts			
Specific	76.2	138.3	48.1
General	43.6	18.5	14.0
	119.8	156.8	62.1
Net interest income after provisions	508.6	459.5	523.7
Other operating income	268.6	203.1	188.5
	775.2	662.6	712.2
Operating expenses			
Staff	361.1	336.7	320.9
Premises and equipment	84.2	78.6	67.0
Other	133.9	125.1	115.6
	579.2	540.4	503.5
Operating profit of Lloyds Bank Plc and subsidiaries	196.0	122.2	208.7

4 The charge for taxation, which is based on the estimated effective rate for the year, assumes a UK corporation tax rate of 52%. Provision is not made for deferred taxation in respect of accelerated capital allowances relating to equipment used in the business or leased to customers where there is a reasonable probability that such assets will not become payable in the foreseeable future; as a result, the taxation charge for the six months ended 30 June 1983 has been reduced by £31.5 million (1982 second half: £45.1 million; first half: £58.5 million).

5 The extraordinary item of £1.8 million represents losses on disposal of certain businesses by a subsidiary.

Group current cost profit

(unaudited)	6 months ended 30 June 1983 (£ million)	6 months ended 31 December 1982 (£ million)	6 months ended 30 June 1982 (£ million)
Operating profit of Lloyds Bank Plc and subsidiaries as in the historical cost accounts	196.0	122.2	208.7
Monetary working capital adjustment	A		
Depreciation adjustment	B		
Current cost operating profit	150.1	84.9	139.2
Share of current cost profits of associated companies	12.2	16.8	11.8
	162.3	101.7	151.0
Interest on loan capital	19.1	22.9	21.1
Less: gearing adjustment	C		
	(10.7)	(7.8)	(15.0)
Current cost profit before taxation	150.7	116.8	157.1
Taxation as in the historical cost accounts	64.0	28.7	51.3
Current cost profit after taxation	86.7	88.1	105.8
Minority interests	2.9	1.6	0.2
Current cost profit before extraordinary item	87.0	86.3	106.0
Extraordinary item	(11.8)	6.9	-
Current cost profit attributable to the shareholders of Lloyds Bank Plc	75.2	93.2	106.0
Dividend	20.6	27.8	18.9
Current cost profit retained	54.6	65.4	87.1
Current cost earnings per £1 share			
Basic	45.0p	29.6p	49.3p
Fully diluted	44.4p	28.9p	48.1p

NOTES

A The monetary working capital adjustment represents the effect of price changes on the net monetary working capital used in the business, except that applicable to countries experiencing hyper-inflation dealt with in the historical cost accounts; the adjustment is calculated by reference to changes in the United Kingdom retail price index and appropriate overseas indices. Net monetary working capital consists of advances and other monetary assets less liabilities on current, deposit and other accounts.

B The depreciation adjustment is the difference between depreciation based on the value to the business of premises and equipment and the depreciation charge in the historical cost accounts.

C The gearing adjustment reduces the monetary working capital and depreciation adjustments by the proportion of capital provided other than by shareholders' funds.



Lloyds Bank
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Chess chaos after Russia withdraws Kasparov from world semi-final match

The Soviet Union threw the chess world into turmoil yesterday by withdrawing from the world championship semi-finals at the last moment.

The dispute centres on Gary Kasparov, the 20-year-old Soviet grand master, who had been due to play Viktor Korchnoi at Pasadena, in California, on Saturday. Yesterday Kasparov criticized the International Chess Federation (Fide) for choosing Pasadena as the venue.

He said in the newspaper *Sovetsky Sport* that the match should have taken place in Rotterdam, and added that "the holding of these matches under the aegis of Fide might turn out to be impossible".

The other Soviet semi-finalist, Valery Smyslov, also announced that he would not be able to take part in the semi-final in Abu Dhabi. He was to have met Zoltan Ribli, a Hungarian.

The Soviet chess federation later issued a statement saying that in view of "violations of Fide rules by its president, Mr Florencio Campomanes, neither the match in Pasadena nor the match in Abu Dhabi will be held".

The Soviet federation said it regretted that the fate of the qualifying competitions had not been discussed at a meeting of the Fide executive in Madrid and that some executive mem-

bers had been more concerned to justify senior Mr Campomanes's actions.

Sources said it was not clear why the Soviet authorities had objected so strongly to Kasparov meeting Korchnoi in California. Soviet officials do not relish the prospect of Soviet grandmasters such as Kasparov playing Korchnoi, a former Soviet champion who defected to the West.

There is speculation that the authorities were uncertain how a brilliant young chess player like Kasparov might react while in the West. Pasadena is closed to Soviet diplomats.

Soviet officials said this week that the security of players could not be guaranteed in Pasadena and that communications would be easier from Rotterdam.



Gary Kasparov: Will not play in California

Kasparov, who lives in Baku, Azerbaijan, is reported to be resting near his home, but is expected in Moscow on Saturday, the day when he should be confronting Korchnoi in California.

The Soviet move follows a sustained and increasingly virulent campaign against Fide and Mr Campomanes in the Soviet press.

● **BELGRADE:** Mr Campomanes was quoted yesterday as saying the two matches could be relocated (AP reports).

He criticized the Soviet Union for trying to get special treatment and said it had two days "to change the situation".

He made the statement in a telephone interview with the Belgrade newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* from the Fide headquarters in Lucerne.

Mr Bozidar Kazic, a Yugoslav vice-president of Fide, said that the Russians would forfeit the matches if they failed to show up.

"The rules are clear. If a player does not show up for the match within one hour of the set starting time, he forfeits the whole match, not only the first game."

He said it was not clear what Mr Campomanes meant by his statement that other venues could be found. Mr Campomanes criticized the Soviet federation for failing to "show the least amount of good will".



People's women: Captain Beverley Burns (left) and Captain Lynn Rippelmeyer at the controls of a People Express Boeing 737. The International Social Affiliation of Women Airline Pilots says they are two of only four women pilots in the US to achieve captain status flying big jets for a passenger airline.

Malta still blocking security accord

From Our Correspondent, Madrid

Malta alone continued to hold out for changes in the proposed final document of the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) yesterday.

If no progress was made Chief Maltese delegate, Mr Evarish Saliba, said Malta would follow the lead of most of the other 34 nations and downgrade its diplomatic representation at the meeting.

Mr Saliba, a veteran of the Helsinki process, reminded fellow delegates at a closed plenary session that Malta is a full participant but "this does not simply mean that we were invited to come and rubber stamp decisions which were not of equal importance to us as they may have been to others."

He added: "After about three years of effort the basic elements of an acceptable package have emerged, with one exception. Concrete follow-up action on matters relating to security in the Mediterranean has not yet been formulated. Malta's proposals are intended to fill this gap."

He reminded delegates that no agreement is valued at the conference without the approval of all 35 participants.

Europe's wine prospects: Part 2

Italian quality should withstand heatwave

In the second article on Europe's wine harvest, PETER NICHOLS reports from Rome on how the unusual weather has affected Italy's production this year.

For Italian wine this is an unpredictable year, or a more than usually unpredictable year, because of the great heat and humidity. Experts maintain that temperatures are comparable with the blazing July of 1950 which was the hottest for two decades.

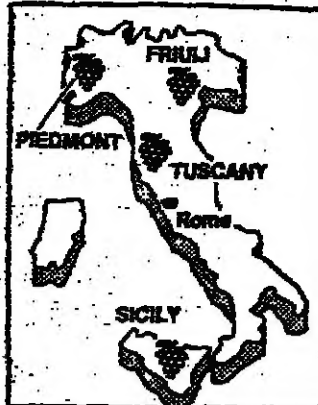
The unusual feature is the high degree of humidity accompanying the lack of rain and soaring temperatures. The Barolo producing areas of the Piedmont region look set for a good harvest except for one of the side effects of the damp heat.

It encourages disease and pests, so unusual quantities of chemical product are being used to offset the danger of rot in the vines. This treatment reduces the quality of the grape and, so far, there is little to suggest that a break in the hot humidity can be expected soon.

In all parts of the country where quality wines are produced the prospect is generally regarded as good so long as rain falls by the middle of August. There was some last week in the Friuli area which was useful for the Sauvignons, Tocais and Pinots but it was not a heavy fall and more will be needed if current hopes are to be fulfilled. There is a fear that summer storms might bring hail and seriously damage the vines.

The Brunello growers in Montalcino, the heart of Tuscany's most prized wines, say that the situation is so far strictly under control. A well-cared-for vine does not suffer from the heat though some good downfalls will be essential this month for an excellent result.

The balance at this early stage in most regions where the best wines are produced is that the quality will be good and the quantity about average. But no



growers at this point is a very strange season omits to point out that the unforeseen can occur practically up to the harvest itself.

Chianti growers remain optimistic and underline the good hopes expressed by the producers of Brunello. So far, the quantity regarded as excellent, and there is every reason for optimism about the quality, given the abundance of sun. Some rain would nevertheless be a help before the month is out.

In Sicily and most of the south the harvest promises well. But the main Sicilian producers are worried by a strong Sirocco which began blowing on Monday. This dry wind from North Africa damaged 40 per cent of the island's vines last year and could destroy hopes of the good results so far forecast.

In Apulia the prospects are regarded as good and the quality is expected to be high so long as the weather in August and the first fortnight of September behaves itself.

In general, Italian wine-producers are happier than the farmers about the way the weather is treating them. They also have a certain stimulus because of the success the best Italian wines are enjoying in international markets partly as a result of tighter regulations on quality and origin.

Tomorrow: Germany

Forest blazes ravage coast of Yugoslavia

From Desser Trevisan, Dubrovnik

Forest fires have ravaged the Yugoslav Adriatic coast, killing at least 12 people and causing enormous damage to woods, olive groves and vineyards.

Dubrovnik, the pride of Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast, narrowly escaped catastrophe. A huge fire, which started in the rugged hills above the city, spread down at enormous speed, moving towards the outskirts of the city, close to the hotels and other places packed with foreign and Yugoslav tourists.

It was only a change in wind direction which saved the city. At least 14,000 sq metres of vegetation were destroyed before the fire was extinguished in the early morning.

Among the casualties were a family of three Hungarians, who are said to have ignored warning signs. There were no British casualties.

● **AIACCIO:** Fire forced more than 100 holidaymakers into the sea when their isolated Corsican beach site was surrounded by flames, local officials said (Reuters, AFP report).

The holidaymakers were camping on the beach of Pinarello, near the southern town of Porto Vecchio.

A small French navy launch helped to evacuate them and 142 people were transferred to Porto Vecchio.

Fires on the French Riviera flared up again last night on Wednesday, threatening coastal resorts. High winds and weeks of drought made conditions particularly difficult.

Vietnam on top of Hayden's Peking agenda

From David Botwin, Peking

Mr Bill Hayden, Australia's Foreign Minister, held talks here yesterday with Mr Wu Xueqian, his Chinese counterpart.

Apart from minor bilateral issues, the talks are believed to be central to China and the respective attitudes of the two governments towards relations with Vietnam.

At a banquet, both men said in speeches that a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia was essential for a settlement of the problem. However, the Australian Labour Government is known to favour a softer approach to Vietnam than Peking's out-and-out hostility.

Mongolia eases pressure on Chinese

Peking (AP) - The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Mongolia is slowing its expulsion of Chinese nationals and the situation was improved after consultations.

An estimated 2,000 Chinese citizens have been forced to leave Mongolia since March, according to Chinese and foreign diplomatic sources.

Mongolia, a Soviet satellite, recently stopped issuing offers of work to the Chinese, apparently under Soviet pressure, diplomats said.

Asked about the situation, the Foreign Ministry said: "The situation has now somewhat improved. Both sides are still carrying on with their consultations."

Policeman wounded after Basque flag protests

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

A member of Spain's national police was in critical condition in the northern city of Gijon yesterday after being hit by four bullets on his way home from night duty. The Basque separatist organization, ETA, was suspected.

The shooting came after continuing disturbances in the Basque country related to the flying of the red-and-yellow Spanish flag. A threat by Basque separatists to set off bombs at a series of military installations in Barcelona was disclosed here yesterday.

Police and military authorities apparently inspected the suspected targets selected by the ETA. The search for the bombs began on Monday after an anonymous telephone call. No explosive devices were apparently found.

The threat was related to the imminent trial by a military court of six Basques and a Catalan in connection with a raid on a military barracks in Catalonia in November, 1980. Basque separatists want only the red, white and green Basque flag to be flown in front of government offices.

Throat surgery kills 180

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - surgery to remove the uvula, a fleshy part of the palate. The operation is carried out in many parts of Africa in the belief that it will protect children against whooping coughs and fevers.

Mr Samuel Mgeni told the Shihata news agency that 134 children died between May and July as a result of incompetent

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THE TIMES
GUIDE TO THE WORLD
ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The eyes of the world will turn to Helsinki on Sunday, when 1,500 athletes from 161 countries begin eight days of gruelling competition on track and field in the world championships. Pat Butcher examines the ambitions, politics and personalities involved

Who can beat the superpowers?

When Paavo Nurmi carried the Olympic torch into the Helsinki stadium in 1952, a lot of people felt that justice had been done. Nurmi, the greatest distance runner that Finland and the world had ever seen, had been banned for "professionalism" 20 years before, and this gesture to the old man was seen as some reparation for the sins of the administrators in maintaining their outmoded amateur laws.

The stadium in Helsinki has been refurbished for the first International Amateur Athletic Federation world championships, and so, finally, have the laws on amateurism. Athletics is moving into a new era. The IAAF, the governing body of the sport, has this year introduced a system of "athletes' funds" which allows participation money for races and deposits the proceeds from advertising contracts in a trust fund from which athletes can draw to pay for their coaching, their travelling expenses and so on.

In ratifying the new rules, the IAAF managed to avoid a threatened split between some western countries who favoured outright professionalism, and two of the major athletic powers, the Soviet Union and East Germany, to whom the idea was anathema. The IAAF now hopes to cement the reconciliation with the biggest athletics meeting ever held.

The IAAF is certainly the biggest sports body in the world. With 170 countries under its aegis, more than the membership of the United Nations, it has managed to subordinate every shade of political, racial and religious opinion to the simple creed of athletic competition.

The athletes have responded with an unparalleled burst of world record breaking. Eighteen new marks have been set since the middle of May, when athletes began their final preparations for next week's competitions.

The largest contingents, with more than 100 each out of a total of 1,500 elite competitors, will be from the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Americans are eager to make up for having missed the boycotted 1980 Olympics. Carl Lewis, who won three titles in the United States championships six weeks ago, is looking forward to Helsinki with relish. "That will be a better track meet than the Olympics," he has said.

Lewis had merely expressed a self-evident truth; it is one, however, that the IAAF is trying not to mention. Track and field athletics represent the hub of the Olympic Games, but the greatest number of nations ever to compete in the boycott-ridden Olympics was 108, at Munich in 1972. Helsinki this weekend will welcome athletes from 161 of the 170 member countries.

John Holt, the general secretary of the IAAF, implies that the choice of Helsinki was made with an eye to the problems that have beset the Olympics: "Helsinki would be completely free of any political tensions; no likelihood of any incidents." But as the capital of a neutral country, albeit one sharing a common border and therefore natural ties with the Soviet Union, the choice of Helsinki also serves the politically conciliatory purpose of the IAAF.

Dr Primo Nebiolo, the progressive and publicity-seeking president of the IAAF, puts it in more dramatic terms: "Finland is the temple of athletics. It has been his regular altar call at press conferences this year. The Greeks, who staged an excellent European championships in Athens last year, might jibe at the appropriation of the term 'temple', but they could not match the average Finn's capacity for worship of track and field.

Athletics is the national sport, at least in the summer, and the Finns have a reputation as the best informed fans anywhere in the world. Such has been the incursion of the sport into Finland's public life that Urho Kekkonen, a former high jump champion, was President of the Republic of Finland from 1956 to 1981.

The Helsinki stadium was originally



Javelin world record holder Tiina Lillak, Finland's best hope for a medal

built for a projected 1940 Olympics. The Finns finally got their Games in 1952; since then the stadium has been a regular venue for such major competitions as the European championships and the European Cup.

A weather-worn statue of Paavo Nurmi stands in the stadium concourse, a permanent reminder of the great tradition of distance running which began in Finland with Nurmi's predecessor, Hannes Kolehmainen, in 1912, the year that the IAAF was founded.

The other great discipline in Finnish athletics is the javelin. Tiina Lillak, the women's world record holder, is unbeaten this year in an event which also has a strong British interest, since

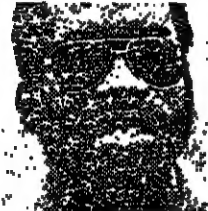
Tessa Sanderson has the third best of all time 73.58 metres behind Lillak's new world record of 74.76 metres. The technical events are far less likely to throw up "unknown" winners, and Lillak's record, plus the impetus of a home crowd make her - like the Greek javelin thrower Anna Verouli last September - the host nation's best, and perhaps only, chance of a gold medal.

It can be safely predicted that the United States, the Soviet Union and East Germany will dominate the medal tables. The first appearance of China, which already has a world-record holder of the high jump, is eagerly awaited, and the excitement provided by the unforeseen winners who revive any sport will surely not be missing either.

TIMETABLE/TV

Sunday, August 7
FINALS
Men: Shot put (5pm)
Women: Marathon (arrives 3.30pm)
TV: 2.7.05pm (BBC2); 11.20-11.45pm (BBC1)
Monday August 8
FINALS
Men: Triple jump (4pm); 100m (6pm)
Women: 100m (5.30pm)
TV: 2.25-5.10pm; 6.50-7.20pm; 9.25-9.40pm (all BBC1)
Tuesday August 9
FINALS
Men: 400m hurdles (3.20pm); 800m (4.20pm); 10,000m (5.35pm); hammer throw (6.30pm)
Women: 800m (4.10pm); high jump (4.40pm)
TV: 2.15-6.10pm; 6.50-7.45pm; 9.25-9.40pm (all BBC1)
Wednesday August 10
FINALS
Men: 400m (4.10pm); long jump (4.50pm); 4x100m relay (5.45pm)
Women: 400m hurdles (3pm); discus (3.10pm); 400m (3.50pm); 3,000m (5.05pm); 4x100m relay (6.30pm)
TV: 2.45-5.40pm; 6.20-7.30pm; 9.25-9.40pm (all BBC1)
Thursday August 11
REST DAY
Friday August 12
FINALS
Men: Decathlon first event - 100m (8am); Javelin (4.30pm); 3,000m steeplechase (4.40pm); 50km walk (arrives 5.40pm)
Women: Shot put (3pm)
TV: 12.15-12.30pm; 1.45-5.20pm; 6-7.35pm; 9.25-9.40pm (all BBC1)
Saturday August 13
FINALS
Men: High jump (4pm); 110m hurdles (5.20pm); Decathlon final event - 1,500m (5.40pm)
Women: Javelin (5pm); 100m hurdles (5.10pm)
TV: 11am-6.15pm; 10.25-11.55pm (all BBC1)
Sunday August 14
FINALS
Men: Pole vault (11.30am); 200m (12.45pm); 1,500m (1.40pm); discus (1.50pm); marathon (arrives 2.10pm); 5,000m (2.40pm); 4x400m relay (3.30pm)
Women: Long jump (noon); 200m (12.20pm); 1,500m (1.15pm); 4x400m relay (3.10pm)
Closing ceremony: 4.10pm
TV: 11.45am-4pm (BBC1)

FAVOURITES FOR MEDALS



ED MOSES
400m hurdles.
USA. Age 27.
Missed the whole of last season through pneumonia and complications, but came back to extend his winning streak.



MARY DECKER
1,500 metres.
USA. Age 25.
A teenage phenomenon who missed three years through leg injuries.



TOM PETRANOFF
Javelin.
USA. Age 25.
Petranoff broke the world record this year, won against the East Germans, and has shown impressive consistency.



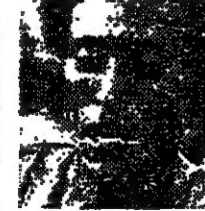
EVELYN ASHFORD
100 metres.
USA. Age 26.
Ashford was the best woman sprinter in the world until the East Germans beat her this year.



CARLOS LOPES
Marathon.
Portugal. Age 36.
Only has lack of a sprint has kept Lopes from a major victory since winning the world cross-country championship in 1976.



ROBERT DE CASTELLA
Marathon.
Australia. Age 26.
Beat Alberto Salazar in Rotterdam in April for the unofficial title of "world's best marathoner".



MOHAMMED KADIR
10,000 metres.
Ethiopia. Age 29.
No form this season, but Kadir has been one of the favourites since finishing third behind his colleague Yifter in Moscow.



EAMONN COGHLAN
1,500 metres.
Ireland. Age 30.
Coghlan is the fastest finisher at the longest distance, but his tactical sense has let him down in the past.



GRETE WAITZ
Marathon.
Norway. Age 29.
Strong favourite now that Joan Benoit, the American, is out. Waitz pioneered fast marathon running among women.



MARITA KOCH
100 and 200 metres.
East Germany. Age 26.
One of the outstanding athletes of recent years, Koch would normally run and win the 400m, but injuries have curtailed her training.



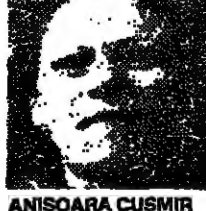
MARLIES GOEHR
100 and 200 metres.
East Germany. Age 25.
An idiosyncratic stylist, Goehr's leg speed is so fast that she looks as though she is running at 36 frames per second.



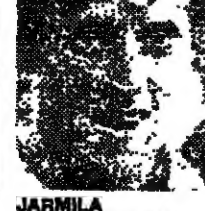
UDO BEYER
Shot put.
East Germany. Age 27.
Sports Illustrated recently forecast a big challenge to Beyer from American putters. Two weeks later, he beat them all.



JURGEN HINGSEN
Decathlon.
West Germany. Age 25.
A statuesque athlete, Hingsen has suffered from the presence of Daley Thompson in his event. But he will run the Briton close.



ANISOARA CUSMIR
Long jump.
Romania. Age 21.
Her world record of 7.43 metres this year ranks with Bob Beamon's 8.90 metres in the Mexico Olympics.



JARMILA KRATOCHVÍLOVÁ
400 metres.
Czechoslovakia. Age 32.
Unbeatable, in the absence of Marita Koch.



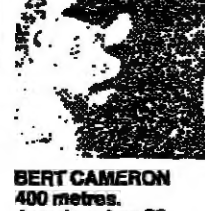
TATYANA KAZANKINA
1,500 metres.
Soviet Union. Age 22.
Kazankina may also run her world record event, the 1,500m. On paper, she is faster than Mary Decker.



YURI SEDYK
Hammer.
Soviet Union. Age 28.
A double Olympic champion, Sedyk is the supreme competitor in what could well be another Soviet clean sweep.



WLADISLAW CZARNECKI
Pole vault.
Poland. Age 29.
One of the stars in Moscow, where he "salute" to the Soviet crowd told them what he thought of them.



BERT CAMERON
400 metres.
Jamaica. Age 23.
The 400 metres has been rather lacklustre in recent years, but Cameron has consistently been the best.



ILONA SLUPIANEK
Shot put.
East Germany. Age 26.
The outstanding favourite, Slupianek demeaned herself and her event when she was positively drug-tested five years ago.

Carl Lewis is the man to beat

The world is waiting for Carl Lewis. And if his recent performances in the United States are any indication, the world will not have to wait very long. Lewis is only a whisper away from three world records, two of which he came close to setting in one afternoon six weeks ago.

He is already everyone's potential "Best Athlete of the Championships". The only doubt concerns the number of gold medals that Lewis will win: will it be three, or four?

As a schoolboy, Lewis won a race at a Jesse Owens junior meeting, and received a medal for his performance from Owens himself. That was a decade ago, but for last two years what Lewis has been receiving for his performances is direct comparison with the great man.

The comparison is all the more tempting since Lewis competes in the same events as Owens. But the 22 year old still has a little way to go to justify being mentioned in the same breath as the man who broke four world records in one afternoon in 1935, and won four gold medals in the Berlin Olympics the following year.

But in deference to Lewis, he has just done something that Owens never managed. He won three events in the US championships in mid-June, the first man to take the two sprint titles and the long jump since 1886. The Helsinki programme may preclude Lewis attempting the

200 metres, but he is favourite for the other two events, plus a third expected gold medal as a member of the US 4 x 100 metres relay squad.

It is unlikely that anyone will equal, let alone surpass Owens's feat of four world records in an afternoon - the 100 yards, 200 yards hurdles, and "running broad jump" - in Ann Arbor, Michigan on May 25, 1935. But Lewis's three victories in two days, plus qualifying heats at the US championships in Illinois is

one of the finest achievements of modern athletics times. Rain and a headwind kept Lewis's time down to 10.2/sec when winning the 100 metres, with Calvin Smith, later to break the world record at altitude, in third place. With his first jump the following day, Lewis cleared 8.79 metres, just 11 centimetres down on Bob Beamon's "unbeatable" world record, also set at altitude in the Mexico Olympics in 1968.

Lewis took only one more of a possible six jumps, doing the third best ever of 8.71m before going to the 200 metres. He won his heat in 20.15sec, and when leading the final, threw his arms up 30 metres from the line to celebrate his triple victory, and found that he had run 19.75, only missing Pietro Mennea's world record, also set at altitude, by three hundredths of a second. And there's the rub.

But for the performances in rarified air, which helps the explosive events like sprints and jumps, Lewis would currently hold three world records. For earlier in the season, he ran 9.97sec for 100 metres, only two-hundredths away from Jim Hines's record, also set at the Mexico Olympics. Then Calvin Smith, who has not beaten Lewis this year, set a new record of 9.93 at Colorado Springs, another high-altitude venue.

Lewis turned down the offer to compete at Colorado Springs. It has become a question of honour with him that if he breaks world records, it will be at sea level.

In the 1981 World Cup, Lewis tried to compete in the 100 metres and the long jump on the same afternoon. He won the long jump, but finished last in the 100 metres, which prompted Allan Wells to say that Lewis should stick to one event. After the 100 metres in Helsinki, Wells, the Olympic 100 metres champion, will probably wish that Lewis had taken his advice.



Lewis: Likened to the great Jesse Owens

The painful path to gold

The withdrawal of Sebastian Coe from the Helsinki team because of illness, and the possibility of Graham Williams doing the same through injury, follow so much of the sort of news from other star British performers - Daley Thompson, Dave Moorcroft, Steve Ovett, Keith Connor and Steve Cram - that the season has begun to sound more like preparation for a world war than for the world championships.

The threat of injury or sports-related illness is nowadays omnipresent. Launching the National Coaching Foundation on Tuesday, Dr Nick Whitehead pointed to a need for more medical supervision of top athletes by drawing comparisons between the training of past and present athletes.

Dr Whitehead, the foundation's chairman and manager of the Helsinki team, related at their events when results under pressure are the criteria. In the early 1960s, he and Peter Radford had amazed Harold



Thompson, left, and Cram: Fighting back after injury

Abrahams, the British 1924 Olympic 100 metres champion, by his delivery of most of those British stars (although not alas Dave Moorcroft) to Helsinki minus bandages, walking sticks and wheelchairs. So how should they fare?

Fortunately, judicious treatment of the sort which Dr Whitehead is seeking to expand has delivered most of those British stars (although not alas Dave Moorcroft) to Helsinki minus bandages, walking sticks and wheelchairs. So how should they fare?

Quite simply, Steve Ovett, Daley Thompson and Keith Connor are the best in the world at their events when results under pressure are the criteria. And that is exactly what they

convened yesterday to reconsider the British application to allow Ovett to take Sebastian Coe's place in the 800 metres (see sports pages).

Daley Thompson considers he is at present worth 8,500 points in the decathlon. The world record, held by his great rival, Jurgen Hingsen of West Germany, is 8,777 points. They have leap-frogged each other twice in the world record stakes, but Thompson has never been beaten by Hingsen in competition, and the reclamation of his record in defeating Hingsen for the European title in Athens last year may have set the pattern for Helsinki.

Keith Connor's phlegmatic temperament hides an urge to win as great as Thompson's. He too, won both the European and Commonwealth titles last year, and is considered the man to beat in Helsinki.

Allan Wells should not lightly be dismissed even though the Americans will be after the Olympic champion's scalp. He has proved that no one in the seemingly unsuitable world of sprinting runs to a seasonal peak as efficiently.

Tessa Sanderson is the best hope among the women, but she has yet to prove her record-breaking form in a top competition. There is no better than this competition, and the prognostication of the British Board chairman, Dr Bill Evans, of ten medals from Helsinki would be a worthy haul.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Not worth the candle

Christmas. Seems a long way off, doesn't it? Very far indeed from the hot summer days we are enjoying, the lazy sunny afternoons broken only by the occasional thunderstorm or the outdoor rock festival in the next field.

And yet, you know, we are more than halfway through the year already. The days are growing shorter, the conkers are full-grown on the chestnut trees and the swallow is already thinking about getting out its *Times Atlas* and planning a pretty route back to South Africa.

The last posting date for first-class Christmas mail to outlying parts of Afghanistan and the more rural areas of Alderney has already passed.

Make your choice, doesn't it? That's why the wiser among us will now be planning our campaign for Christmas present buying. Checking the lights for the Christmas tree. Making sure that we have a list of people who sent us cards last year...

Exasperated Reader: Well, get a move on, for heaven's sake. I have to get out at the next stop.

Myself: No, this is not a sermon. All will be made clear in good time.

Reader: Well, get a move on, for heaven's sake. I have to get out at the next stop.

Do you remember last year, when you swore to yourself that you would get all your shopping done by mid-December? It didn't quite work out that way, did it? You had to send Christmas cards, because you'd forgotten to put an ad in *The Times* saying you weren't sending any.

And at the very last moment you realized you hadn't bought anything for Aunt Bertha, and you gave her that blanket which Cousin Matilda had given you the year before, unopened, and you still aren't quite sure if you'd taken off the label reading: "Lots of love from Matilda, Xmas 1982".

You know, thoughtlessness like this can cause quite unnecessary hurt feelings. Failing to plan ahead for the festive season doesn't just involve yourself in awkwardness; it also brings suffering to others.

This year, tell yourself that things are going to be different. Start planning now!

Exasperated Reader: I'd rather you just told me what this is all meant to be about. I am a busy man. I have to spend a long day at the office speculating on currency. I can't waste time with all this faffle about Christmas.

Myself: I'm sorry.

Reader: So cut out the facetiousness and get to the point.

Myself: Well, the fact is that I have recently acquired, very cheap, a shipment of 300,000 coloured candles from the Third World, with a view to making a fortune at Christmas time. Unfortunately, tests have shown that the candles will go off by October, being made of some inferior fat, and start smelling of the Third World. So I have to offload them now.

Reader: So this is all leading up to some Special Moreover Christmas Offer? Buy your candles now and see them go rotten in a month's time?

Myself: Something like that, yes. Only you keep interrupting.

Reader: My dear boy, I'm so sorry. I had no idea you were engaged in business.

Myself: That's all right.

Reader: Only, you know, we're so used to journalists just rabbling on and on. But if you're flogging shoddy goods at a huge profit, then you're a man after my own heart.

Myself: Thank you.

Reader: No chance you can cut me in on this? Well, perhaps we can meet for a drink later and talk about it.

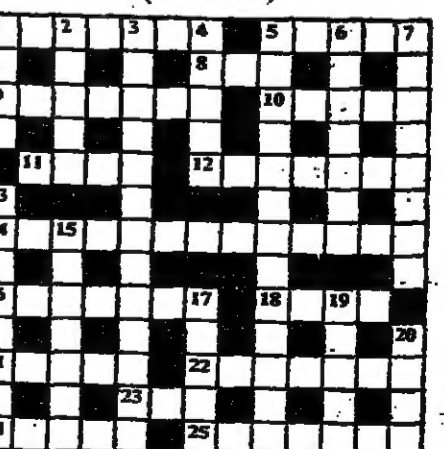
Myself: Perhaps.

Reader: Good. Right. I'll keep mum now. Carry on. Sell those candles to them!

Myself: Thank you, I will.

What can be more delightful at Christmas than coloured candles? glow in the window, a warm flame in the hearth? It so happens that Moreover Enterprises Ltd has recently acquired a small quantity, strictly limited, of top quality, hand-made...

(This Moreover Offer to be continued some other time)

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 119)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Savoury appetizers (7) | 1 Small talk (4) |
| 2 Impish (5) | 2 Lasso (5) |
| 3 Nothing (3) | 3 In the mind (13) |
| 4 Analgesic (7) | 4 Scornful remark (5) |
| 5 Love poetry muse (5) | 5 Powered tractor (10) |
| 6 Hebrew letter (4) | 6 Twist (7) |
| 7 Toothed wheel (7) | 7 Midday (8) |
| 8 Quadrilateral (13) | 8 Perquisite (8) |
| 9 Retribution seeker (7) | 9 Go into again (7) |
| 10 Charity (4) | 10 Hair cutter (5) |
| 11 Roof (room) (5) | 11 Paris underground (5) |
| 12 Regional (7) | 12 Delightful place (4) |
| 13 Native Australian (5) | |
| 14 Register (5) | |
| 15 Sugar cane shoot (7) | |

SOLUTION TO No 118

ACROSS: 1 Pepper 2 Allied 3 Caf 9 Rufous

10 Incept 11 Mean 12 Breeding 13 Jinxed

15 Bunker 17 Shortcut 20 Urtica 22 Absurd

23 Office 24 Eon 25 Elcher 26 Sweeties

DOWN: 2 Educ 3 Phoenix 4 Rosebud 5 Affre

6 Lucid 7 Expanse 14 Inhibit 15 Buttons

16 Souffle 18 Rough 19 Cider 21 Dues

(Solution to No 119 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the new Collins Concise

FRIDAY PAGE

The fathers fight back

Helen Mason sits in with an organization dedicated to helping fathers from broken families to maintain links with their children

Motherhood red in tooth and claw is a concept instantly understood by most people who have ever given birth and one honoured by most British courts. Nine out of ten give custody to a mother in a divorce case. Fatherhood is seen as an altogether more dignified, detached experience. Recently I have spent a lot of time with parents deprived of their children, who find it just as obsessively miserable as I would. They were all men.

Twice a month, in various parts of the country, meetings are held for such men. Known as "Walk-in, Talk-in" sessions, they are sponsored by an organization called Families Need Fathers. FNF has no headquarters, no paid staff. It is a collection of individuals who know how it feels to be cut off from their children and have learned how to fight for their rights. They publish pamphlets and newsletters, organize rallies, lobby for equality of parental rights and offer support in custody hearings as Friends in Court.

One of their greatest aims is reeducating a public which regards the bond between mother and child as paramount or unique. Another is offering advice and the benefit of experience to bereft fathers who fear they will never regain the right to share their children.

The London meetings are held in the Conway Hall on the first and third evenings of each month, open to anyone who care to walk in. At 7.30 pm at least one member of FNF establishes himself as host, in a shabby parody of a homely room with pink flowered wallpaper and a hearth rug. A few bare wooden chairs are arranged in a circle, many more are discreetly stacked outside - no one knows how many seats will be necessary.

On the evening I went, the host was a child psychiatrist named Robin. My escort, James, was a literary researcher whose wife now lives in America with their two sons and a new husband. James's battle to prevent the emigration of his boys has cost him a lot of money and has become a cause célèbre in FNF annals. He speaks about his case in a mild, controlled way and gives the impression of being shell-shocked. In the concept now abolished by

divorce courts, he was the innocent party.

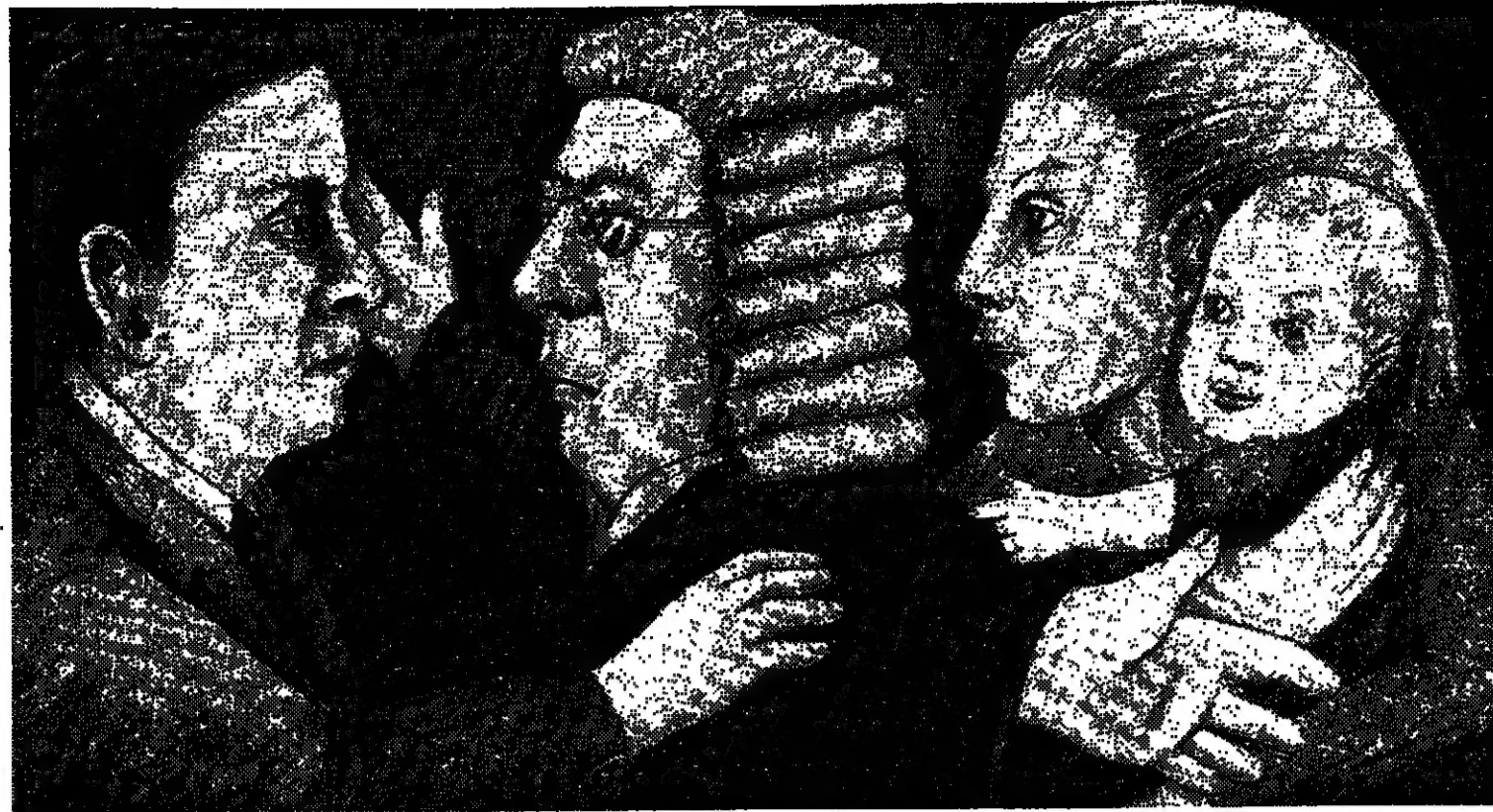
Prevention of children leaving the country has become his main concern, and he has a file of case histories. One recent battle went as far as the European Commission of Human Rights, brought by a father trying to stop his children being taken to South Africa, not only because of the distance but because he does not want them to grow up under apartheid. FNF hoped his case would transform the law, but it was never heard by the European Court. It was turned down because all sources of British justice had not been exhausted, that is, it never went to the House of Lords. The father could not afford to prepare his case for the Lords.

There were no such dramatic stories at the "Walk-in Talk-in" I attended, or at least none with locations so exotic. But the principle is just as painful for a Londoner whose wife has moved the children to Dorset, as another whose family is living in Saudi Arabia. The parent with custody has the right to decide where to live. Not unexpectedly, this is a subject which crops up often at FNF meetings.

Robin, our host, determinedly relaxed and much given to wry jest, said he would like to write a clause into the marriage service: "Should there be issue of this union, and spouses wish to separate, they should remain for all time within half an hour travelling time of each other".

It raised the sort of wan smile inspired by jokes from a pulpit, unexpected, welcome, but not hilarious. For most of the people present, physical distance from their children was not such a problem as access. One of the first men to arrive was a father who has not seen his children for ten weeks. They are aged six and three, and he looked near to tears as he talked about them. He was a tight-faced, bearded young man, his expression fixed by the unnatural calm bereaved people often show at funerals. With him was the woman he plans to marry.

His wife is denying access until maintenance payments are sorted out, although the court and her own solicitor have instructed her to keep



the two issues separate. There are no legal sanctions against her.

Before 8pm there were ten people in the room, chairs scraping to widen the circle with each arrival. A tall, brown-haired man in his early thirties listened in silence for a while, looking troubled and slightly helpless. His problem is that he is unmarried. Unmarried fathers have no legal rights at all to their children. He had the quietly stubborn air of a gentle dog which has its teeth in the pocket of an intruder - no idea what to do next but won't let go. He split up with the mother of his daughter before the baby was born, but has tried to maintain daily contact with the child, who is now 19 months old.

He said: "I could be cut out of her life. Her mother is doing a marvellous job in bringing her up, but I want my daughter to know who her father is. Her mother says she will tell her who her father is, but does not want a bond. It's not just taking her father away, but his family as well." I felt a pang of sympathy for the woman and an uneasy suspicion that in her position I might well feel the same, but I also had a new awareness that we might both be wrong.

He had come to ask how to establish his claim to share his daughter's childhood. Another unmarried father with a daughter of

22 months urged him to go to court, as he had done, to enforce access to his child. The extraordinary result of his telling his story was that three other men revealed that they, too, were unmarried fathers. Four out of 16 in the room were casualties of the new social acceptability of couples living together.

There was an odd similarity between everyone in the room. Their ages ranged from the early twenties to forties and although originally FNF was a middle-class group of professional men, most sections of society were represented at the meeting. What they had in common was the baffled grievance of the wrongly accused and a desperate air of being reasonable people. Above all they conveyed the impression of rationality because they have learned to present themselves this way. Whatever the justification, distraught males do not go down well in British courts.

Summed it up. "If a woman is distressed, a court takes her case more seriously. If a man is distressed, he is told to brace up and behave like a man."

Seasoned FNF men find it politic to talk of women with restraint, even courtesy and understanding. Newcomers were less inhibited. Two men diagnosed their wives as

unstable, one as mentally ill. An aggressive and confident man clearly treasured the instances of his wife's unreasonable behaviour, hoped she would give herself away in court and suspects she is being advised by militant feminists. He was advised to keep a diary, detailing his grievances. He already does. It is 40 pages long.

The only way for a woman observer to sit through the session was to suspend judgment. There must be other sides to the bitter stories which were being aired. James made one chivalrous attempt to put forward the female point of view. "These girls feel threatened," he said. "Frightened." It did not go down too well. The fierce-eyed man was furious. "Girls!" he said with disgust. "Look. It's time we stopped pussy-footing around the altar of motherhood."

The amusement which applauded this splendid image did little to mollify him. He is a man denied access to his home and three children. He reverted to his own case. "She has the family home and custody. If I ran off with the children and said, 'She's been ever so rotten. I won't go back till you throw her out' - you'd laugh at me." The laughter which did greet that outburst was bitter and sympathetic.

One man who did not smile or

change his expression of awesome gravity throughout was an imposing figure in a brown pin-stripe suit. He spoke for the first time, to me at the end, abruptly and enigmatically. "You hear a lot about battered wives", he said. "You never hear about battered husbands."

Almost all the spare chairs in the corridor had been brought into service. Ten minutes before the room had to be surrendered, people were still arriving. Many were reluctant to abandon a new-found camaraderie and the custom has grown of unofficially reconvening in the nearest pub.

The arrival of so many troubled newcomers to a sparsely advertised meeting was graphic enough evidence of the need FNF. I wondered at the beginning what, apart from the therapy of telling their stories to a sympathetic audience, they hoped to gain.

An endearing fellow with long wispy hair and a coat two sizes too big for him, which once must have belonged to a more flamboyant owner, left a little early. He had got what he came for, plus the names of some partisan solicitors. He had been given the same advice as most - "Go for joint custody".

He looked more determined when he left than when he arrived. Most of them did.

TALKBACK

Nothing to forgive

From Gillian Stynian, Isleham, Cambridgeshire
I write in connexion with the article Forging the Fenwoman written by Dierdre Fernand (Wednesday Page, July 20). I have lived in Isleham for six years and therefore missed the original interest and excitement when *Fenwomen* was published.

Everyone that I have spoken to asserts that Mary Chamberlain was scrupulously fair, that she played back lap* to those that she interviewed, erasing any remarks at their request. No-one I have spoken to disliked Mary Chamberlain then or now and would accept her return to visit friends with their usual equanimity and good manners. She should by no means "stay clear of the Post Office" where the postmistress is a personal friend of hers, certainly not the "curt", dour lady as seen by Dierdre Fernand. It is just because the people of Isleham are so friendly and generous that they were able to collaborate with Mary Chamberlain.

If there is any bitterness at all, it stems from the continuing publicity. Time passes and situations change. Couples with a growing family do not wish to be constantly reminded of things they said, even voluntarily, about their sexual habits in 1972. What was true then is not necessarily true now. Even quiet articles, such as this one by Dierdre Fernand, prolong the idea of the Fenwoman as belonging to some harsh, hard-bitten, unforgiving race.

Now they read that a play has opened at the Royal Court Theatre based on the book and called *Fen*.

Where will it all end?

Knight errant

From John Fairchild, Hitchin, Herts.

An appositive pun for Lady Wynne-Jones (Wednesday Page, July 27) would be a "Rushen of blood to the head". As one of the designers of that development inappropriately and inaccurately described as the "Green Giant", I was present at all times during the public inquiry. Her recollections are as fanciful as her guise of "White Knight".

Although she is critical of the timing of the inquiry, convened by circumstances, she makes no mention of the public exhibition held for the two weeks preceding the inquiry.

Lady Wynne-Jones's knowledge of any events or matters, particularly of architecture, are best left to others to decide. If objectors had looked beyond the trees to see the wood, they would have realized the unique facility and place that this development would have provided.

COMMENT

Parents' rights: Is the law an ass?

The main outline of the argument in the case of *Gillick v the West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and the Department of Health and Social Security* is clear. Mrs Gillick sought a ruling that a DHSS Health Notice of December 1980 - HN (80) 44 - was illegal in that it allowed, or encouraged, doctors to give contraceptive treatment to girls under 16 without the consent of their parents. She lost, but she says that she will appeal.

If Mr Justice Woolf's judgment is to stand, it will become apparent that the courts have greater authority over the wards in their care than has even the most loving and caring of parents over their children. It was argued on Mrs Gillick's behalf against HN (80) 44 first that a doctor offering contraceptive advice or treatment to a girl under 16 was acting contrary to the Sexual Offences Act of 1956, and second that conceding the fact that such advice or treatment was offered or given infringed the rights of parents.

Obviously, since the matter continues to be in dispute, the law regarding the rights of parents is unclear. The law on the rights of the courts in regard to children in their care is, however, crystal clear. Suffice it to say that any doctor providing contraceptive advice or treatment to a child in wardship without consulting the judge, would, in my opinion, be in severe danger of punishment.

In a leading case - *R v Gynall* (1893) - it was laid down that wardship was "essentially a parental jurisdiction" and that, in exercising it, "every circumstance must be taken into consideration, and the court must do what under the circumstances a wise parent acting for the true interest of the child would or ought to do". In the case of *In re S* (1967) it was laid down that in anything concerning a ward "no important step in the child's life can be taken without the court's consent". In 1976 Mrs Justice Heilbron in *re D*, a minor refused to allow a ward to be sterilized, saying that it was quite clear that "once a child is a ward of court, no important step in the life of that child can be taken without the consent of the court..."

It follows, therefore, that when a court takes on a parental role it will not tolerate any interference with a ward. The provision of contraceptives without the court's sanction would be a contempt. A judge might, of course, give his permission in a particular case. Again, he might not. But, if he was not told what was being done, he could not arrive at a true judgment. So not to provide him with information relevant to the discharge of his duty would be an offence. Where, in the matter of wardships, now stands HN (80) 44?

The medical profession itself seems at least ambiguous in its attitude to the question at issue. In

its (supposedly) confidential advice to doctors, the General Medical Council states that: "Where a minor requests treatment concerning a pregnancy or contraceptive advice the doctor should have in mind the need to avoid impairing parental responsibility or family stability." The hint here - which is amplified a little later in the same note of guidance - is that if the doctor thinks that "family stability" would be endangered by consulting the parents about contraception, he may proceed on his own discretion.

Nowhere, however, does the GMC's guidance address itself to what is virtually axiomatic - that a girl under the age of consent will not consult the family doctor, but a doctor who does not know her family. The only evidence available on which the doctor may act is, therefore, provided by the child herself. It seems (as Lord Denning might say) plain common sense that the doctor will act according to his own general moral view. If, as in most cases of this kind, he works for a family planning clinic, his natural inclination will be to give the child what she asks for.

It is worth observing, further - and this point has been made by correspondents in letters to *The Times* - that Mr Justice Woolf found against Mrs Gillick partly because he thought it legal and reasonable that a doctor might take the view that "the provision of

contraceptives was in the girl's best interest in protecting her from an unwanted pregnancy and the risk of a sexually transmitted disease..." But could not a girl be tempted to engage in promiscuous intercourse if she is certain to avoid pregnancy?

If Mr Justice Woolf is upheld on appeal, however, the fundamental question of the difference in rights between courts and parents remains. Are wards now regarded as being in a more protected position than other children? If so, why? Is the natural parent of a child considered less worthy of being consulted and informed about his (or her) own child than the artificial parent as exemplified by a judge of the Family Division? If so, why? The duty of the court in the case of a child unfortunate enough to have to fall under its protection is to throw an immediate ring of care around its ward. But that, surely, is the daily duty of every responsible parent. As the law - and Mr Justice Woolf's judgment - stands, Mrs Gillick, in order to ensure that her daughters are never given contraceptive advice or treatment on the say-so of one doctor, should have them made wards of court.

Jonathan Cole and Patrick Cosgrave

Jonathan Cole is a barrister and Patrick Cosgrave is an author and journalist.

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Through the looking glass

Whatever your views on abortion, one of the latest advertisements from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children showing the outline of a naked woman with the slogan: "If women had glass tummies would they ever have abortions?" may well have caught your eye. But did the society realize the full technological implications of the slogan when planning the campaign?

A pregnant woman usually first experiences parental bonding, the merest of human and animal affinity, when she feels her child "quicken". But technology is pushing back this experience to a much earlier stage in pregnancy - for both parents - when they see the image of their unborn child on an ultrasound screen.

In medical parlance ultrasound is a "non-invasive" technique. The image is produced by bouncing sound off the fetus, with the shape of the child drawn by pattern in the reflected sound waves without interfering internally with either mother or child, and so the technique is thought to be relatively risk free. But although there seem to

MEDICAL BRIEFING

be few purely physical effects, judging from the correspondence columns of a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* the emotional and social implications of ultrasound are far from limited.

The letters provide anecdotal evidence of how parental bonds can be formed by seeing the image of the child - long before any other physical sign is apparent. The most charming letter is from a father who first saw his son at 17 weeks on screen and then proudly showed the pictures to his colleagues.

Air factor

No one likes humid, close weather - least of all asthmatics who often complain they find the hot, sticky days suffocating. So much so that on July 6 and 7, there was an unprecedented leap in the number of people suffering from acute attacks of asthma who had to be admitted to hospital in the Birmingham area. In a 36-hour period, 26 people turned up at the casualty department of East Birmingham Hospital - the peak being reached during a violent thunderstorm - compared with a usual number of two or three a day.

Dr Jon Ayres and his colleagues from the department of thoracic medicine were so stunned by this

extraordinary increase that they wrote to *Lancet* last week. In the meantime, the thunderstorms of last Sunday moved in but this time there was no surge in the number of asthmatic attacks.

Dr Ayres says he has no real idea what triggered the attacks in early July but not last weekend. His personal opinion, but not one that he can yet substantiate scientifically, is that there was hardly any wind in the first week of July before the storms and it was very humid, while there was quite a breeze blowing last weekend.

MS dispute

A clash of opinion over a new treatment for multiple sclerosis has shattered détente between two national charities, both aiming to sponsor research into the disease. The Multiple Sclerosis Society and Action for Research into Multiple Sclerosis - a splinter group of the former - were never close, according to those involved. However the two groups had begun to meet regularly to discuss areas of mutual interest.

But ARMS's decision to promote high pressure (hyperbaric) oxygen therapy (HBO therapy) for MS sufferers in spite of the MS Society's vehement opposition on the grounds

that the therapy hasn't been scientifically proven, has put a stop to these gatherings. The two charities have not met for over six months, and John Walford, the MS Society's general secretary, says they have no plans to do so.

ARMS has now opened four centres for HBO treatment; at Dundee, Falmouth, Manchester and Ipswich. Two more, at Letchworth and Exeter, are due to start taking patients this autumn. The treatment is based on the theory that the symptoms of multiple sclerosis appear when fat globules block the tiny blood vessels which surround nervous tissue, thus starving the nerves of oxygen.

The hope is that an extra supply of oxygen will help overcome the deficiency. Patients therefore breathe pure oxygen for an hour at a time, daily at first and then at less frequent intervals. They do this in a pressure chamber because more oxygen will dissolve in the blood and reach the damaged nerves.

ARM's medical adviser, Dr Philip James, has treated over 250 patients with HBO at Dundee. He says many show improvement, especially in bladder function. He is convinced that the therapy has benefits.

But the MS Society insists that there is not yet enough evidence on the safety or efficacy of HBO and that the early responsibility is to obtain that information before subjecting patients to the technique.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



● **ON THE WATER:** Seasonal special looks at canoeing for sport and pleasure, a Norwegian coastal cruise, white water rafting in Canada, eating out down by the river and the latest in yachting equipment

● **SPORT:** Can Alain Prost maintain his lead in the drivers' world championship at the German Grand Prix?



● **S.O.S:** Campaign to Save Our Seeds
● **FAMILY MONEY:** How students can get insurance

Plus

All the news from home and abroad. Drink on Autumn wines. Collecting dolls' houses. Guide to summer festivals. Rock and jazz records of the month. Critics' choice of what's on in the coming week

THE TIMES DIARY

Trade-in

The President of the Board of Trade is alive and well and living in Cecil Parkinson. Thanks be to Sir John Begg-Davison, MP for Epping Forest, who salvaged him from the radical reform of government titles wrought under the administration of Edward Heath. The new-fangled Secretary of State for Trade continued to be also President of the Board, a title dating back to early Stuart times, but Begg-Davison noticed that Hansard and the Cabinet Secretariat had dropped the old title when listing the present ministers. After vigorous correspondence, Begg-Davison has now been assured by the editor of the Official Report that Parkinson's full honours shall be listed in future. One member of the board over which Parkinson theoretically still presides is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Whether that affects his right to vote at elections I doubt.

Game attempt

There is now a possibility that Waddingtons, the Monopolyists, will take over BPC. I mean, of course, not Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation, which is relentlessly pursuing them with takeover bids, but the British Programme Collectors Club, which challenges Maxwell's right to his BPC trade mark. Norman Lovett of the lesser BPC has had a sympathetic hearing from Victor Watson, Waddingtons' chairman, who sees some nuisance value in his claim. The trouble is that if Waddingtons do take over BPC, it is likely to make Maxwell only the more intent to get them in the end.

Off the rails?

In the course of my inquiries into the whereabouts of missing super-market trolleys, I mean, of course, not the trolleys that are serving prison sentences. Visiting one of HM Prisons in London in a professional capacity, Christopher Kinch chanced upon two Sainsbury's shopping trolleys under lock and key. No information was available as to the length of their incarceration, nor their prospects for early release. At least, in these days of overcrowded prisons, they were being held in separate cells.



Barry Fantoni
'How about a change - join the Armed Forces Youth Training Scheme?'

Birth of the blues

A pleasing surmisation of sponsorship fluttered in at my mention of the World Wildlife Fund's project to reestablish the large blue butterfly in this country. There were seven immediate volunteers to part with the necessary £9,200. The privilege goes to Sir Terence Conran of appropriately. Habitat. The others are being offered consolation prizes such as the purple emperor, Duke of Burgundy and adonis blue, all of which are cheaper to support than the large blue.

Different strokes

While we await entries for the PHS sausage competition, here is something for the more artistically inclined. Socialist MEPs have tabled a motion suggesting a competition to design a simple symbol for the European Currency Unit. Something economical as £ for our own currency is sought. The MEPs say the sign should use 'the minimum number of strokes'. The idea will inevitably be referred to a committee, but I see no reason to wait. Bear in mind that an ECU is also an obsolete French coin and that the modern version is a notional composite of ECU currencies, excluding the Greek drachma yet including the £, though we, like the Greeks, are not in the European Monetary System. Conveying that in a minimum number of strokes will not be easy, so there is a prize of champagne as an incentive.

Skeleton staff?

Foreign holidays beckon again. Edward Hibbert of Oxford received a letter from the manager of a hotel at Tucepi, Yugoslavia, confirming a reservation: "We hope you will be content with the services, of the attractiveness of our surroundings, charming of the beach. We expect to greet you in our hotel as our guest."

A factory on the Isle of Dogs has fostered a fox. He arrives every morning for eleven, and when the pest control officer comes, the fox workers hide him in a broom cupboard. Foxwatch quotes this as evidence of how popular the twentieth-century fox has become, and lest some urban hunt gets a view of this piece, I am not allowed to tell which factory it is.

Moscow
"The world is full of regional conflicts which might blow up into East-West confrontations at any moment. Central America is becoming a dangerous flashpoint." The Russian official's comment follows the attempt by an American destroyer to detain the Soviet cargo ship Aleksandr Ulyanov, which the United States suspects of carrying arms to Nicaragua.

The ship's cargo, which Moscow says is innocuous, is due to be unloaded today at Corinto. If all that emerges is "general merchandise," the Russians will feel vindicated, but they are nonetheless making a point of displaying their anger. Tass, the Soviet news agency, accused President Reagan of sending the American navy to blockade Nicaraguan ports in an act of "downright sea piracy" comparable to buccaneering of the past. "The Reagan Administration is playing with fire," Tass warned.

The Soviet view is a mirror image of Washington's claim that the Soviet Union is fomenting unrest in Central America and that the United States and the Kissinger commission are trying to bring stability. Moscow television shows nightly footage of menacing American troops on manoeuvres, with the clear implication that the Reagan Administration is rampaging through Central America in an irresponsible and slightly unhinged fashion, and that the Soviet Union is doing its utmost to behave with restraint and bring about regional peace. The crew of the Aleksandr Ulyanov acted with aplomb when challenged by the US navy miles off the Nicaraguan coast, replying calmly to the destroyer's captain that they were bound for Corinto with "medicines, tractors and building equipment."

Ration cards for urban dwellers, empty petrol stations and a chronic shortage of every kind of transport are visible signs of the crisis which has hit both town-dwellers and the rural Ujamaa (familyhood) villages, which are a cornerstone of President Nyerere's socialist system.

The villagers have not provided the hoped-for increase in farm output because the collective system does not encourage individual initiative. The same problem affects many of Tanzania's industries, where output is low.

Low salary scales, even for the most senior officials, and high taxation have encouraged widespread corruption, despite a strict socialist code which does not allow Tanzanians to hold more than one job and which outlaws speculation or the letting of private property.

Food production has fallen by at least 10 per cent per head of the population in the decade. Twelve per cent of the population live in the towns and most of the others are dependent on agriculture or livestock. The Ujamaa village system, introduced in the late 1960s, brings most of the people into collective villages where, in theory at least, they can be given better education, health and other facilities than they could when living in scattered traditional homesteads.

Yet village life still lacks the attractions of life in the towns, even with the present problems, such as water and electricity breakdowns, food shortages and transport difficulties in the capital and in other towns.

Jobless people are periodically rounded up in Dar-es-Salaam and

"You see," the Soviet official in Moscow said when told of the incident, "we have nothing to hide." In fact evidence has been mounting for some time that the Soviet involvement in the region is far from innocent. Moscow has been working diligently to exploit unrest in America's backyard, using its ally Cuba as a channel for mischief-making and arms supplies. Western intelligence sources estimate that there are nearly one hundred Soviet advisers in Nicaragua, helping several thousand Cuban troops, and that the Russians have supplied the Sandinista regime with T-55 tanks, armoured cars and surface-to-air missiles.

As in other parts of the world, Russia hopes to reap the propaganda benefit from American discomfort, while stopping short of direct confrontation with the United States. The Russians have been visiting politicians from Central America this week - including the Sandinista minister Jaime Wheelock and a Mexican National Congress delegation - that American military manoeuvres in the region are a cover for a Reagan Administration plan to control Central America for years to come. What better proof, the Russians ask, than the row in Washington over the funding of the CIA's "secret war" in Central America? As for Dr Kissinger, they argue that nothing good can come from "the great destabilizer" who masterminded the overthrow of the Allende regime in Chile.

With Soviet stock relatively low in other regions - including the Middle East - Central America

provides a useful opportunity for Moscow to pose as the champion of national determination and social progress. It has also become part of the Soviet press's stock catalogue of American misbehaviour around the world, from the arms talks in Geneva to interference in Africa.

The crisis in Chad is the latest to be laid at Washington's door. While supporting Libyan ambitions in Chad, Moscow accuses Washington of "large-scale and dangerous intervention." Just as Washington accuses Russia of arming the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and (indirectly) the rebels in El Salvador, so Moscow accuses the United States of pouring weapons into Chad to support the government of Hissene Habre and using the aircraft carrier Eisenhower for gunboat diplomacy.

Privately, some Soviet officials concede that the charge of unwarranted interference whether in Africa, the Middle East or Central America - can be levelled as much against Moscow as against Washington, if not more so. But they believe they stand a fair chance of emerging with enhanced status in the Third World and repairing their tarnished reputation as the disinterested champions of peace and justice. Mr Vsevolod Ovchinnikov, the veteran Pravda newspaper correspondent, recently had great fun listing all the troubles attributed by the Americans to "the hand of Moscow", and pointing out in each case that the cause of unrest was indigenous and had nothing to do with Marxism-Leninism.

Western diplomats point out that Andropov's Russia, like Brezhnev's

before it, advances Soviet interests wherever it can, by fair means or foul, probably in a way which the United States regards as its natural sphere of influence. On the other hand the Russians are adept at judging how far to go, and are undoubtedly behind Castro's offer to pull Cuban advisers out of Central America in order to achieve a "peaceful settlement", provided the United States takes reciprocal measures. They may also have advised the Sandinistas to propose a regional ban on all foreign advisers and arms supplies, and have made a point of loudly praising peace-making efforts by the Contadora group of nations.

In the end, Moscow hopes to win as many friends through diplomacy as through arms supplies of the kind which may or may not be the Aleksandr Ulyanov. The Soviet armed forces, bogged down in a guerrilla war of their own in Afghanistan, do not want military involvement in a conflict, not of their making, thousands of miles from home. Red Star, the armed forces newspaper, this week said the situation in Central America had almost reached a point of no return "beyond which the fires of war may blaze at any moment", and warned the United States to give "very serious thought to the consequences."

But Red Star also added that regional peace could not be achieved through the use of military force, and that "all sober-minded people" were in favour of a negotiated solution. That careful afterthought offers a clue to the thinking of a leadership which is used to parceling out weapons and moral support to "national liberation movements" while calculating where its national interests lie.

Moscow reverses the charges

by Richard Owen

Dusty answer for Nyerere's socialism

Once, Tanzania enjoyed something of an economic miracle, but recently things have gone badly wrong, as Charles Harrison reports



President Nyerere: crackdown on the black marketeers

other towns and sent to work on the land. But this does not prevent their drifting back whenever they get the chance.

Theoretically, the strong party system in Tanzania, with its basic framework of "10 cell" units (under which every 10 houses have a political or party leader) should ensure that the urban drift does not get out of hand. But the African

family tradition remains strong, and town-dwellers with legitimate jobs there will do their best to find employment in the towns for their country cousins.

The economic problems have created a substantial black market. In a campaign earlier this year against so-called economic saboteurs, hundreds of traders and others were arrested for alleged

hoarding, black marketeering or currency smuggling. Many of the 1,500 people arrested have been released and Tanzanians say few of the real saboteurs were netted.

Special tribunals are sitting in Dar-es-Salaam and other centres to hear charges against those arrested: some have been sent to jail, and a number of foreigners including Kenyans and Somalis are to be deported.

The crackdown has diverted attention from Tanzania's political unrest, which results partly from the economic chaos. The 29 arrested early this year and accused of plotting the overthrow of President Nyerere and his government have been placed in detention, presumably because there was not enough evidence to support formal charges of treason. They included members of Tanzania's army and air force.

Two of the accused managed to escape from jail, in circumstances never properly explained. A helicopter, apparently, was used to free them. The two, a former Air Tanzania pilot and a businessman, must have had help to get out of the country. They are now believed to be in Europe.

Recently the Prime Minister, Edward Sokoine, and the Foreign Minister, Salim Ahmed Salim, have said their country wants better relations with Kenya. Tanzania closed the Kenya border in 1977 when the East African Community, which linked Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, collapsed.

Tanzania says the closure, aimed at hitting Kenya's economy, will not end until the complex question of dividing up the Community's assets and liabilities is settled. A share-out scheme is virtually complete, but lacks final agreement - so it is still not possible to travel directly between Tanzania and Kenya.

Relations with Nairobi did not improve when Tanzania gave asylum last year to the leaders of an abortive military coup in Kenya. However, Tanzanian leaders now say they want to be good friends with Kenya. One suggestion is that diplomatic missions be set up in both capitals, another that a limited cross-border trade might be sanctioned by Tanzania.

The present mood, in fact, is friendlier to Kenya than it has been for years, and many Tanzanians would like to see it develop further on these lines.

Will this love story have a happy ending?

The blurb for one of Betty Trask's last novels, *And Confidential*, describes the plot as revealing how "the evil purpose of a dead woman's will affected the lives and emotions of whole families."

Margaret Elizabeth Trask's purpose was far from evil when she left a £350,000 legacy to the Society of Authors to fund an annual prize for an author under 35 "on the strength of a romantic novel or other novel of a traditional rather than experimental nature". Nevertheless, her legacy is now affecting the lives and emotions of the whole literary establishment.

Tom Maschler, chairman of Jonathan Cape, and instrumental in setting up the prestige Booker-McConnell prize, said: "The Booker was designed to have an impact infinitely greater than any other literary prize. Then along comes this other prize offering more money but with much duller conditions of entry. The point of the Booker is to help literature. Who needs to help romantic novelists? If they are any good at all, they'll make a lot of money anyway."

By the time she died last January at the age of 88, Miss Trask had written more than 50 romances and quite obviously wished to inspire others to do the same. Yet though hard-working, Miss Trask, a lonely spinster from Frome, Somerset, was not an outstandingly successful author. The money, which would supposedly provide for the most valuable literary prize in the country, came not from her royalties but from a family inheritance.

As late as last May, it was thought that the Trask prize would be worth about £40,000, four times higher



Some of the Trask titles

than the Booker-McConnell which is presented amid much excitement and televised razzmatazz. The Booker organizers deny that the Trask poses any serious threat but might be prepared to increase the value of their own prize should events prove otherwise.

Two months on, it looks as if the Trask prize might not be much bigger than the Booker after all. This week's *Publishing News*, the gossip and informative trade magazine for the publishing industry, estimates that the Trask might be reduced to a fairly workmanlike £12,500 annually.

Mark Le Fanu, general secretary of the Society of Authors, explained: "We are setting up a trust which has to be approved by the Charity Commissioners. This probably will not produce an income of more than £25,000 a year. Under the terms of the bequest, unpublished novels are allowed to be entered and this may mean a large entry, giving rise to heavy administrative costs. We will

probably appoint five judges and because of the estimated large entry, they will have to be paid more than the £1,000 given to the Booker judges who have the rather less difficult job of reading books already in print and chosen by publishers as being the best on their lists."

Another unkind cut, literally, is that prizes, like the Booker, which require entries to be submitted by publishers, are tax-free whereas those, like the Trask, which require authors to submit their own works, are usually taxed. So though the Trask prize, which may be awarded for the first time next year, will be substantial it is now unlikely to put the winner in the same financial class as a bestselling author.

Even so, it will give romantic novelists more than they now get in the way of literary prizes, which are now largely confined to those offered by the Romantic Novelists Association. The association's major prize is a small cup returnable at the end of the year - while its Netta

Muskett award for the best unpublished romantic novel is the chance of publication, although none of last year's intake was considered worthy of this.

Disappointment over the eventual size of the Trask award might have been avoided had Miss Trask kept in closer touch with the Society of Authors and discovered how much it costs to administer a literary prize. Mark Le Fanu thinks that people are perhaps too eager to sponsor a prize - "they like all the publicity and the parties where they can meet authors". This was obviously not one of Betty Trask's considerations but she might have done better to better service if she had left the money in her will to authors fallen on hard times, who had become ill or wanted to work on the kind of learned and lengthy biography that requires generous funding.

How to get people to make this kind of gesture is something that Mark Le Fanu thinks about a lot and he has just hired Nigel Viney to come to the office one day a week to try to raise funds. Mr Le Fanu said: "One suggestion is the we ask companies to donate money from their charitable budgets rather than their sponsorship one. Then we could perhaps put their name on the book's jacket as having given assistance."

This could be as fraught with problems as administering a literary prize. Imagine, for instance, the trouble that might ensue if a volume of poetry carried on its cover "By Joe Bloggs with the assistance of Beefeater gin."

Penny Perlick

George Walden

On your bikes at the top

Immobility of labour is a very British disease. If things are improving, it is not by force of example from above. One of the most stagnant areas of British life is at the apex where business, the senior Civil Service and politics should meet. But here, as in the trade unions, immobility, inflexibility and a hermetically vertical structure are the rule (some movement between business and politics being the exception).

The problems are deeply embedded in an apartheid mentality, and the inhibitions to mobility are formidable. The self-consciousness of the Civil Service - as though it had undergone an irreversible political vasectomy - is a major factor. But above all there is the fierce British attachment to security.

Some existential philosophers maintain that all life is directed towards death - a dismal notion, but well illustrated by some British attitudes in the 1960s and 1970s. As a country, we seemed anxious to get ourselves into a comfortable, recumbent position to await the future. This emphasis on ease and security is in depressing contrast to our national history. It takes many forms: we invest in property, not industry; we stick to steady careers; we have a vast interlocking system of state-subsidized safety nets which are a heavy disincentive to risk-taking; and above all, we aspire to the bullet-proof pension.

This superannuation psychology is specific to us, and has a lot to do with our tax system. Healthy Americans and Frenchmen do not go around calculating their pension entitlements: they are too busy thinking of ways to make money. The only place I have noticed such a keen focus on life after professional death is in the Soviet Union, where release from a career in the state bureaucracy must be sweet indeed.

Preoccupation with security pre-empted movement, especially from the Civil Service. It should be normal for an ambitious official to move into private or nationalized industry, then into politics and finally, perhaps, into No 10 or 11. It does happen abroad, but not here, where one move is seen as adventurous, and two or more as rash or "careerist".

We have a splendid Civil Service. But in our new national circumstances it can be kept healthy only by constant pruning and by transplanting cuttings into the world outside. As the going gets rough, and disagreeable decisions have to be taken, the attractions of official neutrality increase. Greater mobility could help to overcome some of the prudishness in Whitehall about commerce and Parliament. But on this theme, I refer the reader to Sir John Hoskyns' brilliant critique, *Whitehall and Westminster: an Outsider's View*.

Material disincentives to mobility are overwhelming. Senior civil servants are now tolerably well paid; they are virtually irremovable; they coast up incremental scales pretty well irrespective of performance; and they retire on indexed pensions, eked out by a directorship or two, and solaced by a knighthood or some lesser honour.

Why contemplate the brutalities and uncertainties of life in business or politics, especially when times are hard - which is, of course, precisely when such mobility is most needed? And if anyone does risk a move, he will be cautioned in writing that he has no right to reinstatement. To bring back into the Civil Service people with experience of business or politics would ruffle the surface of the Whitehall mill pond.

Philip Howard

A beastly bird in Notting Hill

I wish that I had Gilbert White's eye for the birds, so that when I was observing that owl fly buoyantly as though they are short of ballast, I could be reflecting sentimentally on the nidification of the house-martin. But those of us who are as blind as bats and wear contact lenses have difficulty in telling a hawk from a hedge-sparrow, let alone a hand-saw.

The sage of Selborne was splendidly sharp-eyed and unsentimental about his feathered friends. Give him half a chance, and he was procuring a cuckoo and cutting open the breastbone to examine the interesting state of its crop.

I am no bird-mart. But I did twitter a bit the other day when our resident Gilbert White on the back page observed in his *Nature Notes* that the only birds singing steadily now, apart from the indefatigable wren, are the corn bunting and yellow hammer. I don't know what it is like down in darkest Selborne. But up here in the leafy groves of Notting Hill Gate the dawn chorus is deafening.

In particular there is one bird that gives a harsh squawk as soon as dawn pokes a rosy finger over the golden domes and minarets of Baywater, and carries on with a blood-curdling chirping, like the sound track I suppose, of these new things in the popular newspapers called video nasties. I did not mind too much at first. I am always pleased to listen to the news on the BBC Overseas Service, by a million kilohertz the best news and commentary on the newspapers. But BBC puts out either on radio or television. And I assumed that the screacher was giving an alarm call to warn his friends about Fyrthys and other predatory neighbourhood cats.

But the screaches are so evil, so blood-thirsty, and so prolonged that I have got it into my sleepy head that what the screacher is doing is

I know civil servants who should be running private or nationalised industries at the age of 40. Instead they are handing paper up endless chains of command, losing vigour and ambition in the process. If they do feel an urge to know more about one of the risk-free "interchange schemes" where officials pretend to be businessmen or bankers for short periods, with pay, increments and pension intact. Some officials would make excellent politicians, but feel disinclined to exchange the safe respectability of the Civil Service for politics, with its less rarified atmosphere and guaranteed job insecurity.

Moving from business into the Civil Service is even rarer. Some senior businessmen would make excellent permanent secretaries, but that would be an unthinkable breach of the present monopoly. To get a really top man, you might also have to pay him more; also an unthinkable piece of flexibility on which the Civil Service unions and the Treasury would have inflexible views.

This immobility does us a lot of damage. It preserves ancient suspicions between the three groups. It means that there is a lack of sympathy, or even direct knowledge of what each of them is about. And it limits cross-fertilization. The net loss is to the nation, which, like all countries, has a limited stock of talent.

In France it is thought desirable that senior civil servants, diplomats, leaders of private and public industries and presidents should be professional, numerate and cultivated people. So they have a competition to select the best; they train and examine them rigorously at the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration* (ENA); and they then give them top jobs in accordance with the results (the *Cabinet* system opening the way into politics).

This may seem distasteful to the fastidiously fair-minded Englishman. But look at the quality of the product. Turned out in ever-changing business administration and diplomacy to local government, the *chouchous* range ambitiously around the French Establishment, helped by a powerful old boys' network, whose vindication lies in the ability of the boys in question.

We have plenty of quality of our own. How can we make better use of it and acerate life at the top? Not by importing foreign models. But now that egalitarianism is on the defensive, we could create our own version of ENA, jointly run and funded perhaps by the Government, the CBI and the universities. (The trade unions, also, could join in only if they propelled themselves into the twentieth century first.)

We also need to relax the neurotically tight barriers between the Civil Service and politics. The maintenance of sensible pay differentials between business and government service on the Confucian principle that business exists to make money and the Civil Service to enjoy relatively safe and reasonably paid employment, would help too. And finally pension schemes must be made interchangeable, so that they do not loom quite so large in everyone's professional life.

There is a price to be paid for greater mobility. We would run the risk of a little more political jobbery, and a good deal less security. But as Aristotle observed, we are most virtuous when asleep. And the greatest security is that of the grave.

The author, *Conservative MP for Buckingham*, is a former member of the Diplomatic Service who spent a year at ENA in the early 1970s.

rating the fledglings of mistle thrushes and other smaller birds. Maybe the butcher in a foul London hand-saw, but I reckon it is a jay. And I need the Rev Gilbert White with his pocket knife to unseam the murderer from the back to the rectum, and examine its entrails.

In spite of its gaudy colours, the name jay has no etymological connexion with "jay". One agreeable suggestion is that jay, gae in Scotland, is an old personal name, the Latin *gais*, in the same way that robin is, and jackdaw, and margot pie. The Gaelic name for the bird means "screamer of the woods", and that is about right, except that the jay is now also a screamer of the city centre. In *The Parliament of Fools* Chaucer speaks of the screaming jay. In the West Country they call him jay pie, because of his pied plumage of brown and black, white and grey, with a splash of blue on the forewings. In Somerset they call him "devil scritch".

I am all for nature in its proper place. And I can see that it is a glorious thing to have jays in a small garden in the centre of London. But not gobbling other birds at 4 am. Of course, maybe our alarm call is a magpie, another evil member of the black-hearted crow family. The magpie was the only bird that refused to go in the Ark with Noah and all the other animals. It preferred to perch on top of the Ark and chatter and swear as the world drowned. And that does not make me feel any better. John Lord Hervey's verses on the unbridled appetite of feathered maidens, were for the birds, or at any rate for the stuffed owl.

"Would any feathered maiden of the wood, Or scaly female of the peopled flood, When lured or hunger called, its force resist? In abstinence or charity persist?"



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

POWER ABHORS A VACUUM

Anyone who merely looks at a map and measures distances may think that France has gained a great deal of land. But land must be measured not only by its extent but by its value. What France has gained is what agriculturalists call "very light land". That is to say, it is the desert of Sahara.

That was how the great Lord Salisbury explained to his peers one of those agreements among European statesmen which, in the 1890s, led to the drawing of frontiers in West and Equatorial Africa. It probably never crossed his mind that some of those frontiers would one day become those of something called the Republic of Chad. But he would surely recognize the considerations which lead the statesmen of today, in Paris, Washington and Moscow, to concern themselves with the destiny of that country.

Salisbury was not too worried about giving France a free hand in what is now Chad, but it was a different story when Captain Marchand and his little band appeared at Fashoda on the Nile. Europe nearly went to war over that incident, because whoever is on the Nile can threaten Egypt, and whoever controlled Egypt could cut Britain's communications with her Indian empire.

Independence came in 1960, and the French troops patrolling the northern wastes began to look at an anachronism - seen at least, from Paris and from meetings of the Organization of African Unity. To the tribesmen of the north the combination of continued French presence with southern (black) political ascendancy seemed the worst of both worlds.

Today some of the rules and

some of the players have changed, but the game remains the same. Indeed Chad might almost have been invented by a satirist in order to caricature the follies and absurdities of imperialism. Vietnam and El Salvador are at least real countries inhabited by real nations, whose right to self-determination and democracy can be championed with a straight face. But how does one explain to a sceptical Congress the sending of military equipment, and then military advisers, to defend freedom in a country that has never been anything more than an area on the map?

Two thirds of Chad's vast area is arid and mountainous, and remained under military administration throughout the French colonial period.

Militarily the black *evolués* were no match for the northern tribesmen, and France could find no way of "pacifying" the north, short of reimposing direct French rule which no one, in Paris or elsewhere, was prepared to contemplate. The usual expedients were tried: civilian president overthrown by southern general; rebels split by making one of them (Mr Hissène Habré) prime minister under southern president; finally hand-over to a motley coalition of northerners and southerners under another former rebel leader (Mr Goukouni Oueddei). But then inevitably the former rebels fell out among themselves, with the forces of Mr Goukouni (nominally president) and those of Mr Habré (nominally defence minister) fighting each other in the capital.

France at that point had washed her hands of the affair

and it was Colonel Gaddafi, formerly the rebels' chief backer, who stepped in at the end of 1980 to arbitrate in favour of Mr Goukouni. Neighbouring states, and France, were unhappy about this Libyan occupation, but mostly willing to accept Mr Goukouni if he could be separated from his Libyan backing. In October 1981 the new French Socialist government persuaded him to send the Libyans home (by falsely warning him, Colonel Gaddafi now claims, that Libya was about to overthrow his government). An OAU force was mustered to replace the Libyans, but was not prepared to fight for Mr Goukouni when Mr Habré, starting from Sudan, staged a comeback.

And so in 1982 Mr Habré reinstated himself in Ndjamena, draped in the colours of the free world. Mr Goukouni, now trying his luck once again with Libyan support, is inevitably seen as fighting Moscow's corner, and indeed has received the blessing of the Soviet media.

France is doing its best, short of committing troops, for Mr Habré, but Libya has raised the stakes by bombing Mr Habré's forces in the town of Faya-Largeau. The time has come, it seems, for Uncle Sam to take a direct hand. Superpowers suffer from the *horror vacui*: they dare not concede space to a rival even when that space is worthless in itself. Yet Lord Salisbury's wisdom would surely be worth pondering before Washington involves itself further.

Meanwhile, Lord Salisbury's successors have appointed a new British ambassador to Chad, Mr Michael Daly. "Mr Daly will be based in London." That seems a very good place for him to be.

A BIAS TO BE CORRECTED

It is a healthy sign that some speakers at the Vancouver assembly of the World Council of Churches are questioning its apparently uncritical attitude to the persecution of religious believers in the countries of the Soviet block. The Council has a reputation for bias in its treatment of world affairs; attacking the United States, South Africa and other "capitalist" states, supporting "anti-colonialist" guerrilla movements in Latin America and Africa but doing little about the violation of human rights in communist countries.

That reputation has not always been justified. The position of believers in communist states is a complex one in which some degree of compromise with the authorities is the only way of ensuring the survival of an established church. There is much to be said for the diplomatic approach; certainly delegates from churches existing under Soviet domination cannot all be dismissed as little more than obedient servants of an atheist regime.

Maintaining contacts between East and West is important; priests' delegations are able to help overcome restrictions on the delivery of bibles and other religious literature; they encourage the discussion of moral and

spiritual values in a technological age marked by growing agnosticism. Indeed, the revival of religious belief in communist lands demonstrates that scientific materialism is not the inevitable path for mankind that its propagators claim. The visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland made this clear.

Yet delegates to the World Council do not restrict themselves to spiritual matters. They make political statements and provide material support to overtly political movements, including some that are associated with terrorist methods. For the sake of balance and credibility they should be prepared to give public support to their persecuted brethren in Eastern Europe and the USSR. A member of the central committee of the World Council of Churches has now led the way by submitting that there should be "the same self-examination coming from Eastern Europe" as already exists in the West.

There is, of course, a risk that the USSR would simply withdraw its representation as it did from the World Psychiatric Association when publicly criticized. In Albania, which has minimal links with the outside world, all religion is illegal and has suffered the harshest of persecution. But for the USSR

and its allies trade with the West and spreading political influence are important; they do not lightly surrender a useful propaganda forum.

Publicity plays a vital role in protecting persecuted believers. While the World Council of Churches pursues its policy of quiet diplomacy, in the USSR alone the number of well-documented cases of Christians imprisoned for practising their religion has increased to over four hundred. Muslims, Buddhists and Jews have been no better treated. In Hungary and East Germany the position of believers is easier, but in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Romania many of those most active in promulgating their beliefs have suffered imprisonment.

For the persecuted in communist countries the seeming indifference of the World Council of Churches to their fate is a cause of great bitterness. They regard it as another propaganda victory for those such as Vladimir Kuroedov, the atheist head of the USSR's Council for Religious Affairs, who maintain that freedom of conscience is guaranteed while promoting atheism in every way possible. It is indeed time for delegates at Vancouver to reassess their position.

DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS

Administrative difficulties are being put forward by the electricity supply industry as the main reason why its customers should not receive a rebate from the £332 million net profit that was made in the last financial year.

At the time when computers simplify the sending out of quarterly bills and do so with impressive regularity it must be possible for the area electricity boards to find a way of equitably redistributing the profits that have been made in excess of targets set by the Government. However, the more sophisticated objections put forward by the board can, on detailed analysis and on cost effective grounds, be accepted. The problem of tracing customers who have contributed to these profits and have since moved address is among them.

What is less acceptable is that the electricity supply industry will decide shortly on whether its customers should face a rise in prices next year, not on the basis of its own efficiency which has clearly been improved, but on the inefficiency of another

nationalized industry, the National Coal Board.

The electricity industry in Britain is the largest user of coal in the western world. It takes two-thirds of the output of the NCB and last year burned 79 million tonnes in its power stations. In addition government subsidies are paid to the electricity industry for not invoking contractual arrangements. It made in past years to bring in Australian coal at a price cheaper than that produced by the NCB. This costs the Government £50m a year and six million tonnes of Australian coal is in stock.

Negotiations will begin soon between the generating sector of the electricity industry and the NCB on how much coal it will buy in the coming year and at what price. A previous loose agreement is likely to be rejected by the electricity industry in what will become tough negotiations.

Sadly, whatever the outcome the taxpayer will pay for the inefficiency of the coal industry, but at least the electricity industry's efficiency should be

reflected in its own pricing policy. For that reason alone no rise in electricity prices should be made in the foreseeable future.

As well as being a sign of good faith towards domestic consumers a price freeze would be of substantial benefit to industry, which in many cases was persuaded to switch its primary energy source to electricity in the early seventies when the settlement of the miners' dispute was followed by the hope that a revitalized coal industry would be able to supply the power stations with their raw material at an economic price.

Cheaper coal would lead to the electricity generating industry speeding its programme of converting to coal the coal-fired stations which now run on oil. The NCB would be able to take more advantage of its low-cost pits, and opposition to the closure of high-cost pits by the unions might be less strident if they were faced with the prospect of an expanding coal industry. On that, if not yet on a pricing policy, those who manage the two industries can agree.

Building Society funds

From Mr Brian Phillips
Sir, Your City Editor's comment on Saturday, July 23, made the point that wholesale funds are more expensive for building societies than retail funds and that home buyers will have to pay the price.

This view does not correspond with experience to date. In August, 1980, the Building Societies Association Working Group on Marketable Securities reported that whole-

sale funds for the three-year period to July, 1980, would have cost no more than retail funds and that certificates of deposit, which societies may now issue, would have cost less than retail money. At the present time building society CDs represent good value for money when compared with the cost of retail products.

The position could, of course, change in the future. However, experience to date is such that wholesale markets have contributed

substantial net funds to support the housing market at less cost than net retail money.

The home buyer has benefited on both counts.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PHILLIPS,
General Manager (Finance & Management Services),
Nationwide Building Society,
New Oxford House,
High Holborn, WC1,
July 25.

Facts and deeds in Nicaragua

From Mr Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking (Conservative)

Sir, I am reluctant to be drawn into current discussions on events in Central America, but I cannot let pass the article by James Curran in *The Times* of August 3 about Nicaragua without offering some balancing comments.

To form a judgment about the future of the Nicaraguan regime it is necessary to look at facts and deeds. Nicaragua has indeed received aid and financial support from the West since the 1979 revolution. Mr Curran should also have pointed out that the United States was the first and largest contributor to the new Government's efforts to rebuild its economy, providing nearly \$25m in emergency aid in 1979 and \$118m in economic aid in the following year.

Mr Curran quotes an all-party British Parliamentary delegation in praise of Nicaragua. He should have pointed out also that this delegation was a private venture. He should also have pointed out that in their report this delegation urged the Government of Nicaragua to relax press censorship, to maintain its plan to hold elections in 1985, to relax restrictions on opposition political parties and to stop harassment of political opponents.

He could also have quoted the recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons that every effort be made to dissuade Nicaragua from direct or indirect intervention in the affairs of other Central American states. I hope those recommendations will be heeded, but the present evidence of developments in Nicaragua is not encouraging.

Of course, Nicaragua should be allowed to live in peace. But the Nicaraguan regime should give the same chance to its neighbours to develop towards peace and democracy without the constant threat of a "revolution without frontiers" encouraged and supported by Nicaragua with the backing of other Powers.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CRANLEY ONSLOW,
House of Commons,
August 3.

Charity statistics

From the Director of the Charities Aid Foundation

Sir, This year's charity statistics reveal some very interesting things. The recent and very understandable decline in company giving to charity has reversed. In 1982 companies gave 7 per cent more in real terms, despite comparable falls in pre-tax profits and numbers of employees.

This is therefore a remarkable and generous turnaround, and reflects perhaps the growing awareness amongst, particularly, company chairmen of the need to provide community support.

Equally interesting are the patterns revealed about central and local government giving. To start with, if one takes, as we did, the biggest 200 charities, only about 80 received such state support. It is not clear on what basis the selection is made but a breakdown of it reveals that 70 per cent went to social welfare charities, only three per cent went to environmental charities. Of the state support to charities concerned with social welfare nearly half went to physically handicapped and only one per cent to the elderly or mentally ill.

Some of these figures seem so astonishing that one is forced to ask questions about whether government knows what proportion of taxpayers' money is being spent on which parts of the voluntary sector. It is also very encouraging to note that the value of covenants as a whole has risen dramatically. This will, no doubt, be music to the ears of the last Chancellor of the Exchequer, who introduced the shorter period for covenants and also the concessions to higher-rate taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROPHY, Director,
Charities Aid Foundation,
48 Pembury Road,
Tonbridge,
Kent.

Scottish salmon stocks

From Mr G. D. F. Hadoke

Sir, The Atlantic Salmon Trust agrees wholeheartedly with the views of the Scottish salmon position as expressed by Sir Andrew Gilchrist in his letter of July 25. It would appear that the 1983 catches to date suggest a further decline in the number of fish available for spawning.

The trust has long urged on Government departments and other authorities concerned with the development of Atlantic salmon the need for better management of the resource and has for some time suggested that the example of Iceland is one that we should follow.

As a starting point the trust proposed a national salmon policy which recommended, inter alia, the prohibition of drift netting and the use of monofilament nets and has supported a suggestion for the licensing of all sales of salmon. The last proposal has now been replaced by the National Water Council's suggestion for a salmon-tagging scheme which has been designed to curb the disposal of illegally caught salmon.

Unless the United Kingdom is prepared to accept a national salmon policy for the entire country and to propose a comprehensive management plan for our salmon resource it seems to the trust that its importance will continue to decline.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD HADOKÉ, Director,
The Atlantic Salmon Trust Ltd,
41 Downing Street,
Farnham,
Surrey,
July 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No retrenchment on South Bank

From Mr Tony Banks

Sir, Mr Denison wrote on July 27 on the South Bank's concert halls and the Barbican, but he is mistaken in his analysis of the facts and therefore wide of the mark in his proposed solution.

He refers to a glum prospect ahead for the great band of music lovers who remember with pride the buildings into being. He decries a wasteful conglomeration of not too distinguished musical events; he proposes more planning and a discreet retrenchment in the number of concerts.

There is, alas, no great band of London music lovers. The South Bank concert halls' total audiences for classical music are about 800,000 per annum and our latest research indicates this probably consists of about 175,000 people going about five times a year each. This is not a great percentage of seven million residents of the GLC area, let alone of the residents of the Home Counties or of visitors to London.

There is no diminution now, nor will there be in the future, of the splendid musical performances given at the South Bank concert halls, but audiences have declined over the last five years through the economic climate and the poor marketing of concerts.

The South Bank concert halls have 4,350 seats a night to sell and the arrival of the Barbican has added 2,000 seats a night. This greatly increased capacity is searching for a serious London classical music audience of perhaps only 250,000 people.

The civic leaders who brought these great halls into being with public money wanted them to have excellent standards, but would not want to see them half empty as they are now. There must be much better marketing of concerts so that they compete strongly with going to the cinema and theatre, going out to dinner or staying at home with hi-fi or video.

The halls must become busy centres of excellence for several

British Gas profits

From Mr W. G. Jewers

Sir, I refer to recent letters from Lady Burton (July 25) and Mr Alex Henney (August 1) about energy prices. Contrary to the 50 per cent real rise in electricity prices mentioned by Mr Alex Henney, gas prices are no higher now in real terms than they were 10 years ago, despite the fact that the cost of North Sea gas to the corporation has more than doubled in real terms.

Our current cost operating profit of £663m is certainly large by most standards, but not when seen against the scale of the gas business, which had a turnover last year of nearly £6bn and has assets worth at current cost nearly £12bn. Our capital investment programme amounts to over £4bn at out-turn prices over the next five years. Our aim is to self-finance this expenditure and avoid the burden of interest charges.

Moreover, our retained profit last year was £188m (£144m the year before), after providing for £524m in gas levy, £208m in corporation and other taxes, and writing off the £295m book value of the oil assets the Government is taking from the corporation.

No one, least of all British Gas, liked the difficulties caused to our customers by the gas price increases, the last of which was in October, 1982. But there will have been no increase at all in the year to October, 1983, and, if we are to avoid a repetition of the previous three

Peace in Middle East

From Mr J. Stebbing

Sir, Your leading article of July 23 about the Israeli-Palestinian situation concluded by saying that "the world should stand back a little and let raw facts do their work on local minds."

May I draw attention to two raw facts that threaten the peace of all the peoples of the Middle East? First, the West Bank settlements. These have increased the Jewish population from 800 in 1972 to 16,200 at the end of 1981 and about 25,000 today. Taken with the Palestinian population of 707,300 (in 1981), the Jewish total is now about 3.4 per cent. If Israeli settlers reach the projected total of 100,000 by 1987, then the percentage of total West Bank population will not exceed 12 per cent unless there are massive deportations of Palestinians.

Second, the adjoining Northern District of Israel itself. Here the Israelis comprise only a little over 51 per cent of the total population and for 15 of the last 18 years many more Jews have left the region than have come to settle in it. A small, favourable population balance has been recorded in the last three years, but this amounts to a very small proportion of past losses. But the

The Elgin Marbles

From Mr Max Hebditch

Sir, The International Council of Museums, meeting in general assembly in London yesterday, did not pass a resolution supporting the claim by the Greek Government for the return of the Elgin Marbles, as your Arts Correspondent appears to suggest (August 3).

The resolution adopted by ICOM was much more general. It committed ICOM to advising the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee examining this issue, to providing information, and to evaluating the needs of countries which have lost a significant part of their cultural heritage.

While sympathetic to the needs of museums in some countries to acquire material related to aspects of their culture unrepresented in their collections ICOM has not sought to become involved in specific issues.

different kinds of music without endangering the quality or number of performances of the best classical music. The halls can achieve these objectives by their own skills and those of the orchestras and commercial promoters. There should be adequate consultative machinery through the London Orchestral Concert Board.

There is no reason why every concert should be "distinguished" and any proposition for retrenchment could only cause significant losses to both halls and orchestras alike and be a dangerous threat to levels of employment. The South Bank concert halls' audiences are derived substantially from the middle-aged upper class; this is an unhealthy narrow base. We are not doing enough for other groups who should not be written off as musically illiterate.

Far from retrenchment I seek wider audiences, learning to enjoy good music, through feeling welcome both at the concert and at the halls. Our new open foyer policy at the Festival Hall is attracting to our exhibitions, our foyer music, our bars and our buffets over 20,000 non-concert goers a week; our concert goers average 18,000 a week.

If we can turn five per cent of our open foyer visitors into twice-a-week concert goers we will have retrieved the 100,000 seat sales lost in the last two years.

I am already discussing with major orchestras and promoters ideas for better marketing; we have an average of 1,000 seats unsold every night at the Festival Hall alone. We cannot expect central or local government to meet annual increases in substantial subsidies, if they are only for the benefit of a decreasing band of cognoscenti. A great musical centre must seek to educate and enrich and get a wider audience hooked on classics.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BANKS, Chairman,
Arts and Recreation Committee,
Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
August 2.

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years, it is essential that prices do not lag behind our costs again. Yours faithfully,
W. G. JEWERS,
Managing Director, Finance,
British Gas Corporation,
Rivermill House,
152 Grosvenor Road, SW1.

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While sympathetic to the needs of museums in some countries to acquire material related to aspects of their culture unrepresented in their collections ICOM has not sought to become involved in specific issues.

Fear for Gibraltar dockyard

From Mr M. B. Martin

Sir, The article by your Defence Correspondent (July 28) on the Government announcement of the revised closure date for the Royal Navy Dockyard at Gibraltar failed to inform your readers of the grave situation now confronting the Rock.

The Transport and General Workers' Union represents 80 per cent of the working population of Gibraltar. Nine hundred dockyard employees will be made redundant by the closure. Only 300 will be initially re-employed in the new commercial ship-repair yard under the management of A & P Appledore and there is no estimate as to how many dockyard-related jobs will go, in particular in the service sector.

The Government hopes that, if Appledore prospers, more of those out of work will be re-employed. We believe that optimism to be misplaced. An unpublished assessment by Michael Casey, formerly of British Shipbuilders, casts doubts on Appledore's forecasts. The new yard will have to struggle for survival in a highly competitive world market within a few miles of the rapidly expanding facilities at Algeciras.

Those lucky enough to keep their jobs will suffer also. Taxation will have to rise to in excess of 50 per cent of income to sustain large numbers of unemployed in a small community.

The £28m being provided to the Gibraltar authorities to meet the initial costs of conversion has been tied to "assurances on new working practices". That gives the game away; the Government knows that the new commercial operation will face enormous problems. Competitiveness is to be achieved by first slashing the workforce and then the wages of those who stay.

Public money will, therefore, be used to undercut wages in Britain by introducing South Korean pay and conditions for local Crown servants. What price 400 years' service to the Navy?

The Government may be abandoning its responsibilities to Gibraltar; this union will not. We argue for the only practical alternative: continued dockyard management by the Ministry of Defence with some dockyard facilities used for private work to reduce the overhead costs.

The yard is strategically placed with a skilled, dedicated and experienced workforce. We are for developing its potential. What the Government is doing is jeopardising the future of both the yard and Gibraltar's people.

Yours sincerely,
M. B. MARTIN, National Secretary,
Public Services Group,
Transport and General Workers' Union,
Transport House,
Smith Square, SW1,
August 1.

A tiger's leap

From His Honour Judge G. B. Best

Sir, I was surprised to read in the report in today's *Times* of the trial of Howletts and Port Lympey Estates the assertion that no tiger had ever been known to jump as high as the 10ft 2in high security fence. This may be true of the Siberian variety but not of the Indian.

In *Shikhar Notes for Novices*, by the Hon J. W. Best, published by the Pioneer Press, Allahabad, one may read at page 30 in the thirteenth edition: At Khondra in Bilaspur in the year 1910 a man was dragged from a position in a tree seventeen feet from the ground and killed by a wounded tiger. Shortly after the incident I was shown the tree and the place where the man sat.

My father's evidence, were he alive today, would, of course, be hearsay and I doubt whether an eye witness survived, but so far as these matters can be recorded, there it is.

Yours etc,
GILES BEST,
Piccombe,
Little Bredy,
Nr Dorchester,
Dorset,
July 30.

Parental consent

From Mrs Carole Chapman

Sir, Your correspondents write comparing the medical niceties of prescribing contraceptives to minors with those of operating, or giving injections, without parental consent. But it is not only on medical grounds that comparisons can be made.

Should my daughter, on becoming 16 years of age, wish to enter a stable, loving sexual relationship through marriage, the law will not permit it without my consent.

Should she, however, at only 14, wish to enter an unstable, transient sexual relationship, the law will allow her contraceptives to assist the liaison, not only without my consent, but without my knowledge. Where is the logic of that?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE CHAPMAN,
2 Sanders Drive,
Colchester,
Essex,
August 1.

A day to remember

From Mr Christopher Derrick

Sir, We are rapidly approaching the millionth day *ab Urbe condita*. On a rough count, we'll reach it in or around 1985.

It will call for a big celebration. Are the arrangements for this well in hand? Or has nobody noticed? Italian Embassy to note; also the Apostolic Pro-Nunciature and the Virgil Society.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER DERRICK,
25 Park Hill Road,
Wallington,
Surrey,
July 29.



Investment and Finance

City Editor
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THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 723.6 down 2.0
FT 100: 452.7 up 0.03
Datastream estimate
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 97.45 up 0.3
New York: Dow Jones
Average: (latest) 1184.19
down 13.63
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 9038.61 up 22.41
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index: 1022.98 down 36.13
Amsterdam: 149.4, up 1.6
Sydney: AO Index: 586.2 up 10.5
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index: 976.70 up 1.3
Brussels: General Index
132.90 up 0.7
Paris: CAC Index: 131.9 up 1.8
Zurich: SKA General: 286.0 up 1.8

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling: \$1.4875 down 1.9
Index: 84.0 down 0.9
DM: \$3.9750 down 0.0350
FF: \$1.9450 down 0.1125
Yen: \$362.50 down 4.0
Dollar Index: 128.2 unchanged
DM 2.8700

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling: \$1.4870
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: \$0.57105
SDR: \$0.89236

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rate: 9%
Finance houses base rate: 10%
Discount market loans week
fixed: 9%
3 month interbank: 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar: 10%
3 month DM: 5%
3 month FF: 15%
US rates
Bank prime rate: 10.50%
Fed funds: 9%
Treasury long bond: 8 1/8%
ECB: Fixed Rate Sterling
Average reference rate for
interest period 6 July to 2
August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989
per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)
am: \$413.75 pm: \$414
close: \$413.43-43.75 (2277-50-278)
New York latest: \$414.00
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$425.50-427 (2285-287)
Sovereigns (new):
\$97.98 (255-56.75)
Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: Aquila Securities,
Botsman RST, Ferguson
Industrial (quarterly), Kennedy
Brookers.
Finals: Sidney C Banks,
Capital Reserve Fund, Longton
Industrial, McLeod Russell,
Phoenix Timber, Standard
Telephone and Cable.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

J. Billam, Royal Victoria Hotel,
Sheffield (noon); Brickhouse
Dudley, Strathallan Hotel, 225
Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham (noon); Ferguson
Industrial Holdings, Appleby
Castle, Cumbria (11.30); GEI
International, The Savoy Hotel,
Strand, WC2 (noon); Imperial
Continental Gas Association,
The Chartered Insurance Institute,
20 Aldermanbury, EC2
(11.00); International Signal &
Control Group, Lancaster
Room, Savoy Hotel, (River
Entrance) Savoy Place, WC2
(noon); Robert Jenkins (Holdings),
Board Room, Wortley
Road, Rotherham (noon);
Scapa Group, Saxon Inn Hotel,
Yew Tree Drive, Blackburn
(11.30); Tecalemit, Chartered
Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury,
EC2 (11.00).

NOTEBOOK

Lonrho made interim pretax
profits of £43.4m, raising the
possibility that the full year
results could exceed £100m.
Although the benefits of Lonrho's
worldwide rationalization are
said to be coming through
shareholders who have not seen
a dividend increase since
1981 should not expect this year.
Reed first quarter pretax
profits of £20.4m were up a
fifth on last year. Consumers
of spending, the disposal of
Odhams, and paper and wall-
covering rationalizations have
removed major problems.
Hoover has returned to profit in
the first half of the present year
but still has a lot of work ground
to make up. It turned to profits
of £1m against losses of
£4.6m.

Fall of 1.9 cents may be one-off adjustment

Pound crashes below \$1.50 as markets switch gaze to sterling

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The pound crashed below the \$1.50 level for the first time in four months early yesterday and fell sharply against European currencies and the yen as the foreign exchange markets, wary of central bank intervention elsewhere, turned their gaze on sterling.

But there were no signs of any pressure for British interest rates to rise, and the pound steadied later in the day, suggesting that the drop may have been a one-off adjustment rather than a pointer to further falls.

The pound ended the day in London, nearly 2 cents down at \$1.4875. Its trade-weighted index lost 0.9 to 84.0.

Over the past few weeks the pound has been dragged up to clearly uncompetitive levels against other currencies in the slipstream of the surging dollar, hitting Britain's export industries and dampening prospects for economic recovery.

The British authorities have made it clear that they see no reason for interest rates to rise to combat dollar strength, nor have they joined in the concerted intervention by other central banks.

This has convinced the markets that the Government would not resist a drop in sterling. With dollars still in strong demand, traders have decided that selling pounds for dollars is a less risky bet than selling other currencies which may run into central bank support.

The drop in the pound's trade-weighted index reflected hefty falls against the Deutsche mark (down 3.50 points to DM3.9750), the French franc (down 11.25 centimes to FF11.9450) and the Japanese yen (down 4 yen to 362.5).

There were ominous signs yesterday that the impact of central bank intervention was beginning to wear off, as expectations of higher American interest rates strengthened.

The dollar gained nearly one penny to DM2.67 in London and was moving up swiftly in early New York trading, boosted by talk that Mr Albert Wejnolower, chief economist of the First Boston investment bank, was predicting significantly higher US interest rates by the end of the year.

The views of Mr Wejnolower, whose reputation for gloom has given him the nickname "Dr Death", overshadowed the calming influence of remarks on Wednesday by Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that monetary policy had not been tightened since May.

A rise of 0.5 or 1 percentage points in American banks' prime lending rates in the near future is generally thought to be unavoidable.

But some City analysts have suggested that the Fed would not have agreed to large-scale currency inter-

vention if it had intended to drive up interest rates even further.

Intervention continued yesterday, though on a lesser scale than earlier in the week, with the central banks of Germany, Japan, France and Switzerland noted in the market. The Bank of England was also said to be standing by its normal practice of smoothing excessive fluctuations.

The London money markets remained calm, despite the sharp drop in sterling, even easing a shade. In its dealing operations, the Bank accepted higher rates on some longer-term bills, but kept its "stop rate" unchanged - a sign that it saw no need for interest rates to rise.

The markets were also reassured by the fact that the bulk of the US Treasury funding programme has been completed satisfactorily.

Barclays £262m beats forecasts

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Recovery on the international side despite further heavy bad debt provisions enabled Barclays to push up profits by 11 per cent to £262m pretax in the first half of 1983. This compared with the very depressed first half a year ago.

Expecting less, the stock market marked the shares up 22p to 509p although there was disappointment at the rise of only 4.5 per cent in the interim dividend to 11.5p.

The surprise came in Barclays Bank International which lifted pretax profits to £100m compared with £39m a year ago, helped by the turnaround in the United States, where BBI branches had been suffering from big bad debts on energy lending and with large corporate customers. Before loan stock interest, the United States contributed a £5m profit compared with a £23m loss a year ago.

Group bad debt provisions, although two-thirds higher over the year at £193m, were slightly lower than in the previous half. Mr Timothy Bevan, chairman, said the trend seemed to be downwards but cautioned that it was too early to be certain.

Provisions were split 60 per cent international and 40 per cent domestic and total provisions amounted to 1.9 per cent of group loans.

BIG FOUR BANKS

Pretax profits (£m)	1983	1982
Barclays	262	259
Lloyds	194	120
Midland	136	156
Natwest	230	225

Barclays: the last of the Big Four banks to report, was moderately optimistic about the international debt crisis but Mr Peter Leslie, senior general manager of BBI, reaffirmed the need for some kind of long-term lending schemes to help take pressure off the banks by channeling funds to developing countries.

He also said governments and international agencies must help provide new money for Brazil because commercial banks could not possibly put forward the huge sums mentioned.

Domestic profits before loan interest slipped in the first half from £203m a year ago to £182m in the first half of this year but the underlying trend in the clearing bank appears to have been marginally up.

At a time when asset growth has slowed sharply, commission and the income throughout the group has been rising. On the domestic side, corporate and personal tax charges contributed more than 50 per cent more.

Acrow loss soars over £14m

By Jeremy Warner

Acrow Year to 31.3.83
Pretax loss £14.1m (£3.9m)
Stated loss per share 22.52p (6.64p)
Turnover £163.1m (£167.3m)
New chairmen
Share price 11p, down 2p.

Pretax losses at Acrow, the excavation, equipment and bridge construction group which is being supported by its bankers, soared to over £14m in the year to the end of last March.

Declining markets and heavy rationalization costs are cited by chairman Mr William de Viger and his new managing director, Mr James Cunningham, as the reasons for the losses. These were some £10m higher than the year before.

The group was to have published results last week but decided to defer them to give it time to consolidate for the first time the results of overseas associates, which would have reduced the loss and boosted the group's net assets. But Mr Cunningham said yesterday it had not been possible to gather the information in the time available and the group had been forced to abandon the plan.

Group debt was £8m higher at the end of the year than at the beginning but has been maintained within the available facilities agreed with a dozen British and overseas banks last February.

Mr Cunningham said that although the difficult trading conditions had continued the loss before tax would be "significantly reduced".

A further 400 people had been made redundant during the last three months and by the end of September this figure would have reached 800.

Two-thirds of the losses came from the Coles cranes business. Last year plants in West Germany and Lancashire were closed leaving the business with just two manufacturing sites.

Mr Cunningham said that losses at Coles, which has been hard hit by a lack of orders from important South American markets, would be significantly reduced this year.

Tozer shareholders in refinancing plan

By Our Financial Staff

A consortium of Tozer Kensley & Milbourn shareholders speaking for more than 40 per cent of the company have drawn up plans to refinance the troubled trading and motor distributor which has £100m of debts.

The group - clients of stockbrokers Anderson and Co. Mr Kenneth Thorogood, the former TKM chairman, and Mass Development, a Bahrain-based investment company - says that the refinancing would involve raising an additional £27m and converting bank debts into shares.

The package could total £52m. Doubts over whether its plan is being taken seriously by the board may prompt the consortium into calling a special shareholders' meeting. One member of the group said last

night: "The board appears to be procrastinating."

Mr Peter Grant a director of Lazard Brothers which is advising the TKM board, said that talks had been going on with several people, but he had yet to see anything credible.

The groups member added: "If there are alternative plans to ours then we ought to be made aware of them. The company at present lacks both a chief executive and a finance director."

The consortium's proposals, said to have been put together by Morrison Associates, a private company specializing in saving companies in trouble, involves a one-for-one rights issue at about 25p a share, to raise an initial £13.5m. The issue would be underwritten by IO financial institutions and industrial companies.

Tecalemit dispute likely

By Andrew Connell

A dispute over the reelection of a director is expected at this morning's annual meeting of the Tecalemit mechanical engineering and electronics company in London.

Mr Bill Houston, a non-executive director of the group for 10 years has threatened to seek reelection to the board against the wish of the rest of the seven-man board.

This week Mr Houston met representatives from leading institutional shareholders in Tecalemit, including Britannic Assurance and M&G, in a bid to win their support.

At another meeting with

institutions Mr Clive de Paula chairman of the company, and other board members were also asked to discuss their future strategy for the company.

Pretax profits slipped to £147,000 in the year ending March 31, against £1.54 the previous year.

Mr de Paula said yesterday that he did not see any reason why the board should fail to win

He said that Mr Houston was due to retire from the board by rotation and the board would propose that his position be left vacant. "We do not see a particular role for Mr Houston to play", Mr de Paula added.

City Editor's Comment

Beating the unitary tax propaganda

Somewhat belatedly, the Confederation of British Industry yesterday announced its undying abhorrence of unitary taxation. Cynics, however, may remember that the Unitary Tax Campaign, all members of which are also CBI members, was originally formed because they could not goad the confederation into strong enough action.

But the CBI move should be welcomed because the unitary tax issue has, since the US Supreme Court decision upholding the right of American states to levy such taxes, shifted from an esoteric argument about tax theory to a very practical propaganda war. The object must be legislation on Capitol Hill to lay the ghost once and for all. To achieve that, British and the many sympathetic American companies will need every ally they can find.

For the other side is a formidable opponent. The Multi-states Tax Commission, the American proprietary tax lobby, has been much emboldened by the Supreme Court ruling and at this moment is touring the country telling states that the way is clear for them to follow California and the others. Florida has already done so. It should not be forgotten that President Reagan is a former governor of California.

If the opposition to unitary taxation is to succeed, therefore, it is imperative that the British Government, as well as other governments and the EEC, give their full support. Since the battleground is the lobbies of Capitol Hill, the British Government might consider the admittedly novel step of retaining its own Washington lobbyists.

Certainly, time is short. The state rights movement is in full cry and an issue such as this, easily turned into a populist cause, is not best pursued in a Presidential election year. If the campaign against unitary tax does not make its impact in the next few months the ultimate result

could be an unsatisfactory compromise which might prompt imitation by other countries. British ministers and others who have received comforting reassurances from Washington recently would be well advised not to relax their guard.

Challenging the easy money myth

The trouble with the current success of the Unlisted Securities Market is that it looks such an easy place to make money that too many young men, ambitious to become millionaires, think all they have to do is register a company name, indulge in a nominal amount of trading and then come to the market. In mood, if not in all aspects of substance, it is disturbingly reminiscent of 1972 when the ambitious young man called his company a bank, and bought his ticket to ride the boom which ended with the disaster of the fringe bank crisis.

It is only natural that the lessons learned then have now been forgotten, nor should not be surprised that some brokers and issuing houses are trying to bring to the USM companies whose prospectuses contain a volume of fine print, much of which disintegrates under critical examination. Unfortunately, as in 1972, there is not enough of that critical examination about.

But the past few weeks have seen increasing evidence that the authorities are meeting the challenge. A number of new issues (fast approaching double figures) have been quietly dropped, or sent off to raise their new capital privately. What is not clear is whether these rejections are the result of a tougher line being adopted by an openly nervous Stock Exchange or whether the quality of applicants has fallen so more have been caught on the wire. But whichever the reason, it is encouraging to note that though the exchange's defences are being tested, they are still, so far, holding firm.

LONRHO

Half Year Results

The unaudited results of the Lonrho Group of Companies in respect of the six months ended 31 March, 1983 are as follows:-

	6 months to 31 March, 1983	6 months to 31 March, 1982
	£m	£m
Turnover	1,106.1	1,082.7
Profit before tax	43.4	37.8
Tax	20.2	17.8
	23.2	20.0
Minority interest	7.1	7.1
Profit attributable to shareholders before extraordinary items	16.1	12.9

Notes:

- The 1982 figures have been restated, as required for comparative purposes, to reflect the change in accounting policy for the translation of overseas companies' results as reported in the 1982 Accounts.
- Turnover of associates has been excluded from the above in accordance with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 1 (Revised). The turnover of associates for the six months to 31 March, 1983 was £369.5m (1982 restated - £350.2m). Profit before tax includes profits from associates of £18.0m (1982 restated - £14.1m).
- Tax charge: because of the incidence of accelerated capital allowances and stock relief, the tax charge provided at the half year can only be estimated.
- Extraordinary items: the policy of effecting strategic realisations of low yielding assets, referred to in the 1982 Accounts, commenced with the disposal of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco and the Hatfields steelmaking interests. The total extraordinary charge, including the effects of the above, was some £5m.

Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 3.00p per share (equivalent to 4.2857p per share including the related tax credit) for payment on 3 October, 1983 to shareholders on the Register at 2 September, 1983.

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BL

4 August, 1983

Dow tumbles 14 points

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Rising fears about the course of interest rates sent the Wall Street market sharply lower yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell early today about 14 points to 4,183 and the transportation average fell 7 1/2 to 545.

Declining issues were about seven-to-five ahead of advances.

International Business Machines at 119 was down 1; General Motors at 70 was down 1; Ford at 55 1/2 was down 1 1/2; General Electric at 49 1/2 was down 3/4; Lockheed at 112 1/2 was down 1/2; Texas Instruments at

108 1/2 was down 1 1/2; McDonnell Douglas at 52 was down 2 1/2; Eastman Kodak 70 1/2 off 1 1/2; Tandy was down 3 1/2 to 39 1/2; Teletype was down 1 1/2 to 153 1/2; Computervision rose 1 1/2 to 49 1/2; Northwest Airlines was off 1 1/2 at 45 1/2; CSX was down 3 at 69 1/2; Sears Roebuck rose up 1/2 to 51 1/2; E-Mart was down 1/2 at 31 1/2; American Telephone & Telegraph was unchanged at 62 1/2.

First Boston economist Mr Albert Wejnolower was reported forecasting a 10 1/2 per cent to 11 per cent federal funds rate and a rise in long bond yields to 13 per cent by year end.

£200m steel plant deal for McKee

By John Lawless

Davy McKee is close to signing a £200m contract for a steel-making plant in the Philippines.

Doubts about whether the whole \$800m complex would have to be renegotiated vanished yesterday when a first stage contract for an iron-making plant worth \$390m, was signed with a Japanese-German consortium led by Marubeni.

That contract calls for the construction of six direct-

reduction furnaces, a raw materials processing plant and a limestone mill.

It will feed iron directly in the steel-making plant, for which letters of intent have been given to Davy McKee and Voest Alpine, of Australia.

Davy McKee is the leading partner in the consortium, which is understood to be bidding for the final stage of the project, which will see rolling mills being built.

Bargaining has been particularly tough, with the Philippines Trade and Industry Minister, Mr Roberto Ongpin, insisting that, if the would-be contractors did not agree to protection clauses, he would reopen negotiations with Lurgi, of West Germany, for the iron-making plant and a Japanese consortium of Hitachi Zosen, Nippon Kokan and Marubeni for the steel plant.

Seven-month figure shows 17% increase

Car sales set for record year

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

New car sales in Britain in the first seven months of the year rose by 17.3 per cent on last year's figure to almost 971,000. The previous annual car sales figure was in 1979 when the market reached 1.76m. If, as expected, this month's sales exceed 320,000 as a result of the new registration plate prefix and the continuing price war, the year-end total could be a record in spite of the recession.

According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the share of the seven-month market captured by so-called British cars rose from 42.48 per cent to 43.36 per cent, with 69,248 more British cars sold than during the first seven months of 1982.

BL, the only British-owned company among the major suppliers, saw its market share rise only marginally to 18.27 per cent in the seven months - well short of the company's 20 per cent target.

Ford, which has overtaken Renault to become the European sales leader and claims that its Escort is Europe's best

TOP TEN CAR SALES

Year to date, last year's position in brackets

1. Ford Escort (1)	93,728
2. Ford Sierra (4)	82,084
3. BL Metro (1)	77,184
4. Vauxhall Cavalier (9)	71,359
5. Ford Fiesta (4)	68,143
6. Vauxhall Astra (6)	58,044
7. BL Maestro (1)	52,214
8. Datsun Sunny (1)	50,053
9. Volvo 300 Series (8)	48,492
10. BL Acclaim (7)	48,482

buyers are waiting for the new August registration letter, totalling 49,378. This is 7 per cent rise on July 1982, which was the second lowest July on record. Last month imports - mostly from Europe - captured 52.9 per cent against 54.27 per cent a year earlier.

Imported cars took 214,000 sales in July, a rise of 14 per cent on a year earlier. Sales of domestic models went up by 40 per cent to 576,864.

The boom in car sales has been even more marked in the US where the market in July was up by 31 per cent to about 790,000. The figure marks a continuation of a trend that has been apparent since the spring and, as a result, the big US car makers are starting to end their discount schemes.

Chrysler plan, page 19

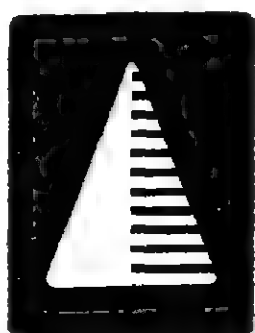
Motor dealer Godfrey Davis, which has been expanding into the caravan homes business, has sold its three holiday centres to Pontins for £1,800,000. The centres are at Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex, and Torbay and Shaldon, Devon.

Notice to Noteholders

Bankers Trust Company in its capacity as Trustee, Fiscal Agent or Principal Paying Agent for the following issues, hereby gives notice to the Noteholders that with effect from 16th August, 1983 the new address of the Luxembourg Paying Agent and/or Transfer Agent **BANQUE INDOSUEZ LUXEMBOURG** (formerly Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez S.A. Luxembourg) will be 39, Allée Scheffer, Luxembourg. Telephone, telex, P.O. Box numbers and telegraphic address remain unchanged.

Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 20,000,000 15 1/4 per cent. Sterling/US Dollar Option Notes 1985
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 40,000,000 12 1/2 per cent. Notes Due 1985
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 50,000,000 12 per cent. Notes due 1st October, 1983
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 75,000,000 13 per cent. Notes Due 1986
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 20,000,000 13 1/4 per cent. Notes 1986
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 50,000,000 15 3/4 per cent. Notes Due 1986
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 75,000,000 Retractable Notes Due 1993
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 50,000,000 Zero Coupon Discount Notes due 1987
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 75,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1987
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 200,000,000 Zero Coupon Notes Due 1994
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 100,000,000 15 1/4 per cent. Notes Due 1989 Convertible at the Option of the Holder to Floating Rate Notes Due 1989
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 100,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 15th May, 1990
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 112,500,000 14 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 1990
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit Can \$ 50,000,000 12 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 15th February, 1988
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit ECU 60,000,000 1983-95 Retractable Bonds
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit US\$ 150,000,000 10 1/4 per cent. Notes due 15th March, 1986
 Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit £ 30,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Notes 1988
 Alcoa of Australia Ltd. US\$ 30,000,000 13 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 1991
 Alcoa of Australia Ltd. US\$ 50,000,000 16 per cent. Notes Due 1989
 Amstar International Capital Corporation US\$ 12,000,000 8 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures due April 1, 1986 and US\$ 20,000,000 8 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures (Series A) due April 1, 1986
 Amedeo International Finance N.V. US\$ 15,000,000 7 1/2 per cent. Convertible Bonds due 1998
 APS Finance Company N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 16 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1988
 APS Finance Company N.V. US\$ 60,000,000 17 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986
 APS Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 16 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1989
 APS Finance Company N.V. US\$ 25,000,000 16 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1989
 APS Finance Company N.V. US\$ 60,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1990
 Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires US\$ 30,000,000 Floating Rate Notes due 1986
 Bank of Communications US\$ 25,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1985
 Bank of New Zealand US\$ 50,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Capital Notes 1993
 Bankers Trust Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 200,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Subordinated Notes Due 1994
 Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez (Indosuez) US\$ 100,000,000 15 per cent. Notes Due 1989
 Bergen Bank A/S US\$ 25,000,000 Floating Rate Capital Notes Due 1989
 Bergen Bank A/S US\$ 25,000,000 Floating Rate Capital Notes Due 1991
 Boston International Finance Corporation N.V. US\$ 100,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due June 1, 1989
 Caisse d'Aide à l'Équipement des Collectivités Locales US\$ 75,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Notes due 1990
 Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole US\$ 250,000,000 Floating Rate Notes 1982/1997
 Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole US\$ 250,000,000 Floating Rate Notes due 1995 with Warrants to purchase US\$ 125,000,000 10 1/4 per cent. Bonds due 1989
 Caisse Nationale des Télécommunications 250,000,000 United States Dollars Floating Rate Notes due 1991
 Campbell Soup Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 200,000,000 Zero Coupon Guaranteed Notes Due 1992
 Campbell Soup Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 14 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due 1989
 Carolina Power & Light Finance N.V. US\$ 60,000,000 16 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due February 15, 1989
 Chemical New York N.V. US\$ 150,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Subordinated Notes Due 1994
 Cities Service Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 150,000,000 17 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due 1988
 City of Gothenburg US\$ 30,000,000 8 1/4 per cent. Bonds due 1987
 City of Stockholm US\$ 50,000,000 Retractable Debentures Due March 15, 1988
 Comcast International Finance N.V. US\$ 22,500,000 8 per cent. Convertible Bonds due 1997
 Conoco Eurofinance N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 8 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986
 CPC Finance N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 16 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due September 15, 1986
 Crédit Chimique US\$ 50,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due June 1988/1990
 Crédit d'Équipement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises US\$ 100,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1993
 Crédit d'Équipement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises £35,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds 1995
 Crédit Foncier de France 200,000,000 United States Dollars Exchangeable Floating Rate Notes due 1989
 Crédit National US\$ 200,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1994
 Den norske Creditbank (Luxembourg) S.A. US\$ 20,000,000 Floating Rate Subordinated Bearer Participation Certificates 1990
 Dynalection International Finance N.V. US\$ 15,000,000 9 1/2 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Guaranteed Debentures due 1995
 EAB Finance N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1990
 Eaton Finance N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 13 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due January 15, 1989
 Electricité de France US\$ 100,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due 1993
 Enso-Gutzeit Oy US\$ 50,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due 1990
 European Asian Capital B.V. US\$ 50,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1992
 European Asian Capital B.V. US\$ 20,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1987
 European Economic Community US\$ 65,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Bonds due April 20, 1993
 European Economic Community US\$ 1,800,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1990
 European Investment Bank US\$ 60,000,000 8 1/2 per cent. Bonds due June 1, 1986
 European Investment Bank US\$ 50,000,000 9 1/2 per cent. Bonds due 20th March, 1986 and US\$ 30,000,000 9 1/4 per cent. Bonds due 20th March, 1991
 European Investment Bank US\$ 100,000,000 9.70 per cent. Bonds of 1979/1989
 European Investment Bank US\$ 80,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Bonds 1992
 European Investment Bank US\$ 100,000,000 11 per cent. Bonds Due 1988
 European Investment Bank US\$ 100,000,000 9 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 1987
 European Investment Bank US\$ 100,000,000 12 1/4 per cent. Notes due 1988
 European Investment Bank US\$ 200,000,000 12 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 1989
 European Investment Bank US\$ 150,000,000 15 1/2 per cent. Bonds Due 1985/89
 Finnish Export Credit Ltd. US\$ 50,000,000 10 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due 1985
 Finnish Export Credit Ltd. £15,000,000 13 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes 1986
 Finnish Export Credit Ltd. US\$ 50,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Notes Due 1986
 Finnish Export Credit Ltd. US\$ 75,000,000 12 1/4 per cent. Notes due 1987
 Fluor Finance N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 13 1/4 per cent. Notes Due September 30, 1984 With Warrants to Purchase US\$ 150,000,000 Zero Coupon Debentures Due March 31, 1990
 Fluor Finance N.V. US\$ 100,000,000 14 per cent. Notes Due September 15, 1989
 GenFinance N.V. US\$ 100,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Bonds due 1990
 Grupo Industrial Alfa, S.A. US\$ 75,000,000 Floating Rate Notes due 1988
 Gulf States Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 60,000,000 17 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1988
 Gulf States Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 60,000,000 16 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1990

GW Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 7 1/2 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1998
 Honeywell International Finance N.V. US\$ 100,000,000 10 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures 1990
 Iberica de Autopistas, S.A., Concesionaria del Estado ("Iberpistas") US\$ 18,000,000 Serial Floating Rate Mortgage Bearer Notes Due 1986
 Inco Limited £25,000,000 15 1/4 per cent. Unsecured Loan Stock 2006 with U.S. Dollar Repayment option
 Industrias Peñoles, S.A. de C.V. US\$ 60,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1989
 IPF (Illinois Power Finance) Company N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1989
 Istituto Mobiliare Italiano US\$ 50,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1992
 John Hancock Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 12 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due November 1, 1989
 Kansallis-Osake-Pankki US\$ 50,000,000 Floating Rate Capital Notes 1992
 Kansallis-Osake-Pankki US\$ 25,000,000 Floating Rate Capital Notes 1989
 Kingdom of Sweden US\$ 150,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1988
 Kingdom of Sweden US\$ 110,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due November 1988
 Kingdom of Sweden US\$ 650,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1989
 Kingdom of Sweden US\$ 150,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due January 1995
 Kingdom of Sweden US\$ 1,200,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1993
 Levi Strauss International Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 11 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due July 1, 1990
 Marine Midland Finance N.V. US\$ 125,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Subordinated Notes Due 1994
 McDonald's Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 9 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due February 8, 1993
 McDonnell Douglas Finance Corporation International N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 17 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due February 15, 1989
 MNC Bank International Finance Corporation N.V. US\$ 20,000,000 12 1/4 per cent. Senior Guaranteed Notes Due 1985
 New Zealand Steel Development Ltd up to US\$ 300,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1992
 Nordic International Finance B.V. US\$ 40,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1991
 Österreichische Kontrollbank A.G. US\$ 75,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1986
 Österreichische Kontrollbank A.G. US\$ 52,130,000 15 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds 1992
 Österreichische Kontrollbank A.G. Can \$ 63,000,000 16 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes 1988
 Österreichische Kontrollbank A.G. up to US\$ 175,000,000 10 per cent. Guaranteed Notes 1991
 Österreichische Länderbank A.G. US\$ 50,000,000 Floating Rate Subordinated Notes Due 1994
 Pacific Gas and Electric Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 16 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1988
 Pacific Gas and Electric Finance Company N.V. US\$ 80,000,000 15 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1989
 Pacific Gas and Electric Finance Company N.V. US\$ 45,000,000 15 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1989
 Pacific Gas and Electric Finance Company N.V. US\$ 60,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1990
 PepsiCo Capital Corporation N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 8 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1996
 Province de Québec up to US\$ 100,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Bonds 1986 extendable at the Bondholders' Option to 1993
 Province de Québec US\$ 150,000,000 15 1/4 per cent. Bonds Due 1989
 Province de Québec £35,000,000 15 1/2 per cent. Notes 1987
 Province de Québec £30,000,000 14 1/2 per cent. Notes 1989
 Province de Québec US\$ 150,000,000 13 per cent. Bonds 1990
 Province de Québec US\$ 50,000,000 10 per cent. Bonds due 1995
 Republic of Finland US\$ 100,000,000 9 1/2 per cent. Notes 1986
 Republic of Finland SDR 50,000,000 8 3/4 per cent. Notes Due 1984
 Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français US\$ 100,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds due 15th March, 1993
 Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français US\$ 50,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes 1988
 Southern California Edison Finance Company N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 14 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1987
 Southern California Edison Finance Company N.V. US\$ 50,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1988
 Southern California Edison Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 16 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986
 Southern California Edison Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 15 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1989
 Southern California Edison Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1990
 Southern California Edison Finance Company N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 10 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures Due 1990
 Southwest Airlines Eurofinance N.V. US\$ 35,000,000 6 1/4 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1998
 State Bank of India US\$ 30,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Due 1987
 State of Spain US\$ 100,000,000 15 1/4 per cent. Notes Due 1987
 Sundsvallsbanken US\$ 20,000,000 Floating Rate Capital Notes Due 1985
 Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget SCA US\$ 19,750,000 9 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Bonds 1998
 Svenska Handelsbanken US\$ 35,000,000 Floating Rate Notes due 1987
 Svenska Handelsbanken US\$ 45,000,000 13 1/4 per cent. Notes due 1988
 Svenska Handelsbanken US\$ 100,000,000 13 per cent. Notes due November 17, 1990
 Transamerica Financial Corporation N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 7 per cent. Notes Due September 3, 1986
 Transamerica Financial Corporation N.V. US\$ 150,000,000 Zero Coupon Debentures Due September 3, 1991
 Transamerica Financial Corporation N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 Zero Coupon Notes Due December 22, 1986
 Transamerica Financial Corporation N.V. US\$ 150,000,000 Zero Coupon Debentures Due December 22, 1989
 Union Camp Overseas Finance N.V. US\$ 70,000,000 11 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due November 1, 1989
 Union Carbide Overseas Finance Corporation N.V. US\$ 150,000,000 14 1/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due May 1, 1989
 United Mexican States US\$ 175,000,000 18 1/2 per cent. Retractable Bonds Due 1997
 Wells Fargo International Financing Corporation N.V. US\$ 75,000,000 15 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due March 15, 1987
 YFC International Finance N.V. US\$ 15,000,000 7 1/2 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Bonds due 1998
 Zentralparkasse Und Kommerzbank, Wien US\$ 50,000,000 11 1/2 per cent. Subordinated Bonds Due 1990

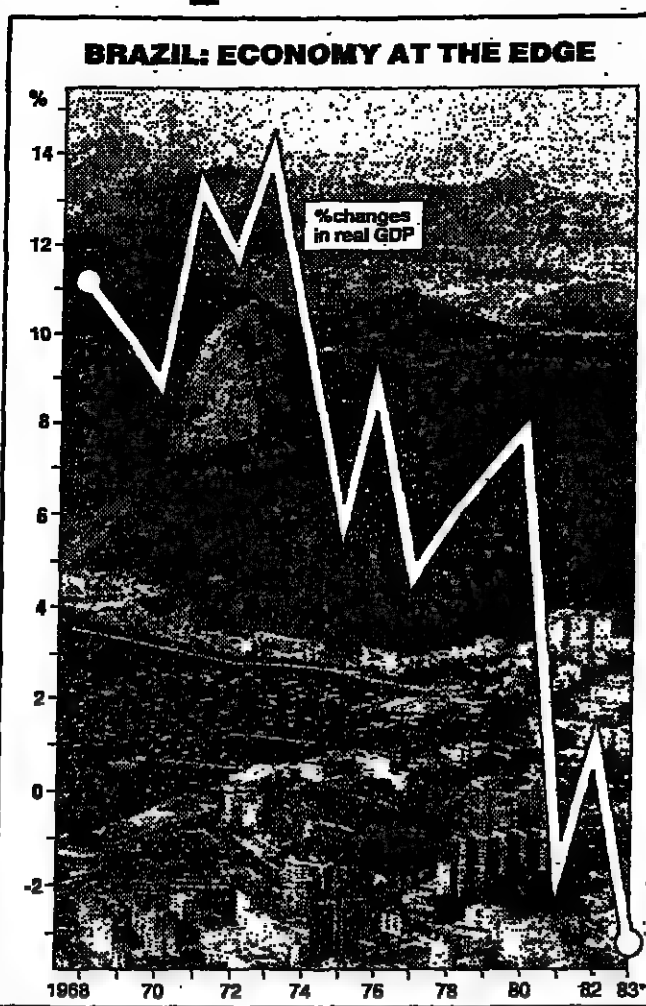


Bankers Trust Company
 Corporate Trust and Agency Group

Du Pont names new chief

CRA: mr John Ralph has become managing director. Sir Roderick Carnegie continues as chairman and chief executive.

Brazil: the collapse of a dream



BRAZIL: ECONOMY AT THE EDGE

Despite its being partly an artificial creation, most influential Brazilians are not prepared to stand by and watch the industrial structure built at such a high social and political cost in the past two decades, just wiped out.

Sultan who fell out with the Crown

But for the Agents, on the other hand, the news is a bitter blow when they are only just beginning to find their feet again after the property investment disasters of the 1970s. The abrupt and insulting nature of their dismissal has been particularly galling.

But this only raises the question of what, if any, the modern role of the Agents should be. The main lesson of the Brunel affair may prove to be not that the Agents were incompetent (for which there is no evidence) but that they are irrelevant and anachronistic.

Jonathan Davis

Jonathan Davis

[illegible]

Wayne Lintoff on the complex moves to marry two conglomerates

Corporate craftsmen struggled with textile giants' merger

More light has been shed on the financial pressures which led to the merger of Carrington Vella and Vantona, the two textile companies, last February, the power struggle which took place between the chief executives of those companies, and the roles played by the banks and Britain's largest manufacturing company, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI).

The British textile industry suffered a severe contraction during the 1970s caused principally by the strength of sterling, increased import penetration and the inherent inefficiency within the industry itself.

Carrington Vella was a prime example. It borrowed to re-equip plant and borrowed more to cover trading shortfalls. Within three years from 1979 it notched up total losses of £60m neatly balanced by borrowings of more than £60m and had failed to pay any dividends for a token penny.

ICI was the largest shareholder with just less than 50 per cent of the stock. ICI had created the group from a merger in 1969 and was quickly told by the then Labour Government to cut its majority stake to 35 per cent. It could not find a buyer, settled at 49.36 per cent, but agreed not to use its voting power beyond the 35 per cent level.

In October 1980 ICI realized that Carrington was going to be a serious problem. It brought in Mr. Bill Fieldhouse, chief executive of Letaset, to be part-time chairman and help sort out the mess. Mr. Fieldhouse determined that Carrington would have to be taken over to survive and for that to happen a massive rationalization programme would have to be instigated.

So talks were implemented with Courtaulds, Britain's biggest independent textiles group. These went on for the following two years but proved fruitless, as much from personality differences between the executives involved as from any commercial incompatibility. Meanwhile the rationalization programme in those two years had cut the workforce from 30,000 to 14,500 and substantially reduced losses from a peak £31m in 1980 to £3.7m by last year. But in 1982 the company's financial position was still precarious.

By the end of 1981 the last bankers, led by Barclays and including National Westminster, Chase Manhattan, Royal

Bank of Canada and Citicorp, began, according to the sources, to get "twitely" and to "niggle" ICI about covering the debts.

Around the same time Sir James Spooner, ex-Rothschild banker and now Vantona chairman, began making tentative approaches which were rejected by Mr. Fieldhouse who was still trying to find a chief executive for Carrington.

James Blith, an executive at Lucas Industries turned down the offer. And Mr. Fieldhouse was becoming increasingly involved with Letaset where he was fighting off a bid and looking for a white knight.

Eventually Esselte of Sweden took over Letaset and paid off the directors with £1.6m. Controversy surrounded this and Mr. Fieldhouse was widely rumoured to have received £700,000 though there are documents which suggest he received a cheque for a net £400,000. He has never commented on the pay-off.

So Mr. Fieldhouse became chairman and chief executive of Carrington, on a five-year contract at £75,000 a year.

Five months later, in April last year serious discussions began with Vantona.

ICI supported the bid by Vantona but only from the standpoint of a minority shareholder. On April last year broad agreement was reached and by September 1 last year provisional agreement.

The major stumbling blocks were that Carrington could not take over the smaller Vantona without maintaining ICI's involvement and losing its substantial tax credits.

Mr. Fieldhouse wanted the top job, arguing that he had turned CV around and CV would be producing the early profits. Vantona was not prepared to encumber itself with CV's debt burden unless it was rescheduled on a more manageable basis.

A formula was worked out whereby CV would takeover Vantona's operating subsidiaries - thus maintaining the tax credits - while Vantona took over CV, allowing Vantona the breathing space to transfer business to CV plant while it reorganized its own problems under the umbrella of the combined group.

The banks, after some false starts rescheduled CV debts under very attractive terms. Vantona accepted the rescue.

during but insisted that it could not be expected to pay CV shareholders a dividend this year as well as meet the preference share payments to the bank.

So despite the fact that the profits paying Vantona shareholders a dividend was coming from the CV pot it was decided that Vantona would not pay a dividend to the 40 per cent share of the increased capital that was attributable to the old CV shareholders if earnings per share topped 16p.

Just two weeks ago the combined group announced interim pretax profits for the six months ended May 29 of £3.3m and met the forecast 3p dividend, but earnings per share were only 7.4p.

According to the documents *The Times* has, Vantona made an attributable loss of a meagre £55,000 in the 17 weeks ended March and a pretax profit of only £71,000. CV, on the other hand, made £1,550,000 per tax year March alone having lost £1.4m in January and February.

That left the power struggle. A letter signed by Sir James Spooner shows that he agreed to retire within two years to allow Mr. Fieldhouse to takeover.

Mr. Fieldhouse, dubious, insisted on an agreement that if this did not take place he would receive his five years' salary as compensation. It was here that Mr. Fieldhouse was outmanoeuvred.

Vantona Bankers N M Rothschild said the secret deal must be disclosed in some form or another. It appeared in the offer document as a clause that should any dispute arise within two years Mr. Fieldhouse would receive his five years' salary on resignation.

Because of the controversy surrounding Mr. Fieldhouse's alleged payments from Esselte of Sweden objections to the clause were voiced at an extraordinary general meeting by minor shareholders.

Mr. Fieldhouse publicly withdrew his demand for the clause but asserted his right to the chairmanship within two years.

At the next board meeting Mr. Fieldhouse is alleged to have left the room accompanied by Sir James Spooner while Mr. Fieldhouse's reelection was discussed. Vantona directors outnumbered CV directors by eight to seven. Mr. Fieldhouse was not nominated for reelection.

The dispute continues between both sides' solicitors.

Dividend row looms

A row is brewing between shareholders of Carrington Vella and the new stablemate Vantona over 1983 dividend payments.

Accounts prepared for the combined Vantona Vella directors and given to *The Times* show Vantona making losses in the four months ended March and Carrington making profits in the four weeks ended March.

At the time of the agreed merger Vantona was believed to be the healthier of the two companies. This document shows that although Vantona had budgeted for a pre-tax profit of £1.2m - more than double that of the previous year - it actually made £71,000, after extraordinary items showed a loss of £55,000.

Carrington, whose fiscal year ended in December, made a loss of £1.4m in January and February but then made a pre-tax profit of £1.6m in the next five weeks and continued making similar profits over the next two months.

Under the terms of the original offer Vantona specified that it would not pay the projected 1983 total dividend of 5p on that part of its capital

which represented Carrington interests - around 40 per cent - unless earnings per share were 16p for the year.

At the interim stage, announced last week, earnings per share were only 7.4p. Former Carrington shareholders may therefore not get their dividend even though it is their side of the business which appears to be making the profits. However, there must also be doubt as to whether Carrington shareholders would have seen a dividend in 1983 had the merger not taken place.

Mr. David Alliance, chief executive of Vantona Vella and a substantial shareholder, acknowledged that Vantona was aware of Carrington's projected return to profitability at the time of the merger, "which was why we went ahead with it."

He said the figures quoted were correct but meaningless - contrary to the views of leading textile analysts in the City - and that to suggest that the Vantona interests were trading at a loss was "absolute nonsense."

"The Carrington interests are trading profitably", he said, but he declined to reveal which side was contributing most.

Director's companies to merge

By Jeremy Warner

Scottish Heritable Trust, the Glasgow based property to carpets group is to buy a business which is nearly half-owned by its managing director for about £3m. It will be paid for by the issue of 6.25 million shares.

When Mr. Robin Garland became managing director of Scottish Heritable a year ago, it was thought likely that he would eventually want to inject his private business interests into the publicly-quoted company.

Now terms have been agreed for the purchase of Claxton and Garland which owns a share and property portfolio and whose subsidiaries are engaged in sand and gravel quarrying and housebuilding. The company expects to make pre-tax profits this year of £400,000 after extraordinary costs of £105,000.

The vendors of Claxton and Garland will end up owning 37.5 per cent of Scottish Heritable as a result of the deal. But the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has already agreed to waive the requirement this could normally put on the vendors to make a bid for the whole of Scottish Heritable.

Claxton and Garland currently own over 1 million shares in Scottish Heritable and these will be placed along with nearly 1 million of the new shares to which the vendors become entitled.

Scottish Heritable has estimated that it will make pretax profits of not less than £250,000 in the half year to the end of next September and promises to pay same-again dividends of 2p a share on the enlarged capital.

Going gets rough but Thoroughbred stays in running

By Jonathan Clare

Thoroughbred Investment Company, the poor man's way into the stock market, has fallen at the first fence but says the race is not lost yet.

Thoroughbred, launched two months ago with great publicity and with Lord Oaksey as chairman, has been handicapped by a distinct lack of interest among the big City institutions. The institutions had been asked to put up an initial £1m via a private placing of the shares. Demand for the prospectus, at the beginning of June was so great that Rea Bros, which was handling the placings, had to order a reprint.

But yesterday Thoroughbred said it was returning all cheques uncashed to the applicants for the shares because there were insufficient subscribers. The company says that for "reasons not apparent to the managers" the institutions found the offer unattractive.

Memcom stops quote

Memcom International, which makes electronic filing systems, has decided against seeking a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market after advice from the Stock Exchange and its financial advisers.

The company said yesterday: "This decision is for technical reasons and in no way reflects on the financial standing and prospects of the company."

Within the next few weeks Memcom intends to raise additional equity capital with an issue to the public, it added. Memcom, a US company, has a

Nova sales hit by Far East firms

By Jonathan Clare

NOVA (JERSEY) KNIT Year to 31.3.82 £299,000 (2708,000) Pretax profit £429,000 (2708,000) Statutory earnings 12.4p (24.2p) Turnover £8.1m (29.2m) Net total dividend 4p (5.5p) Share price 74p, down 18p Yield 7.7%

Nova (Jersey) Knit, the company at the centre of the row about the closure of one of its factories while the workers were on holiday, has reported lower profits after being hit by Far East competition.

The attributable loss to its shareholders is more than £200,000, but this is more than offset by a property revaluation. An extraordinary debit of more than £1.2m includes a £300,000 provision for the controversial move of production from South Wales to Nottingham.

Nova has worked out a combined management and production agreement with W E Saxby (Nottingham), a loss-making subsidiary of George Spencer. Both companies believe this rationalization will improve their performance against the Far East. Nova is a big supplier to Marks and Spencer which takes about 60 per cent of its production.

Nova may keep limited production in South Wales depending on the outcome of negotiations with the unions. The extraordinary item also includes £892,000 for the reorganization of dyeing and finishing.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF EUROPEAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS (EDRs) IN

NIKKON FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Further to our notice of March 18, 1983, EDR holders are informed that Nikkon Fire & Marine has paid a dividend to holders of record March 31, 1983. The cash dividend payable is Yen 4.80 per Common Stock of Yen 50.00 per share. Pursuant to Clause 8 of the Deposit Agreement the Depositary has converted the net amount, after deduction of Japanese withholding taxes, into United States Dollars.

EDR holders may now present Coupon No. 8 for payment to the undermentioned agents. Payment of the dividend with a 15% withholding tax is subject to receipt by the Depositary or the Agent of a valid affidavit of residence in a country bearing a tax treaty or agreement with Japan giving the benefit of the reduced withholding rate. Countries currently having such arrangements are as follows:

A.R. of Egypt	F.R. of Germany	The Netherlands	Spain
Australia	France	New Zealand	Sweden
Belgium	Italy	Norway	Switzerland
Canada	Japan	Poland	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	South Korea	Romania	U.S. of America
Denmark	Singapore	Sri Lanka	Zambia
Finland	Sweden		

holding receipt of a valid affidavit Japanese withholding tax will be deducted at the rate of 20% on the gross dividend payable. The full rate of 20% will also be applied to any dividends undistributed after October 31, 1983.

Amounts payable in respect of current dividends:

Coupon No. 8	Cash dividend	Cash dividend payable	Cash dividend payable
100 shares	Yen 480.00	US\$ 4.80	US\$ 4.80
100 shares	Yen 480.00	US\$ 4.80	US\$ 4.80

Depository: Citicorp, N.Y. Agent: Citicorp (London) S.A. 200, Strand, London WC2R 1HP August 4, 1983.

Barclays Bank

Interim Statement for the half-year ended 30th June 1983

The Barclays Group profit before taxation for the half-year to 30th June 1983 is £262m. This is £26 million (11%) higher than it was in the first half of 1982 and £3 million higher than in the second half of 1982.

The Board has decided to pay on 12th October an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1983 of 11.5p per £1 Ordinary stock (an increase of 4.5% over the interim for 1982: 11.0p) in respect of stock registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 9th September 1983. This is equivalent to 16.4p gross on that stock. An interim dividend of 7p per £1 on the Staff stock will be paid at the same time to holders registered on 30th June 1983.

In the UK average base rate was 10.4% in the first half of 1983 compared to 13.4% in the first half of 1982 and 10.5% in the second half. Thus, despite increased volumes, net interest income fell reflecting lower overall spreads and increasing reliance on more expensive wholesale funds. Commission income improved and overheads have been contained, and our efforts in this direction were assisted by the welcome decline in inflation. In spite of the emerging economic recovery, we feel it

prudent to make substantial provision for bad and doubtful debts. Investment profits were much less than the exceptional profits we realised in the second half of 1982.

Most of the Group's other domestic operations have performed well, Barclaycard, Barclays Merchant Bank and the Trust Company reporting increased profits. Mercantile Credit's performance, however, was adversely affected by the downward trend in interest margins and a higher bad and doubtful debt charge.

The profit contribution of Barclays Bank International is higher than in both halves of 1982 and there has been a good recovery in trading performance. Net interest income, commission income and foreign exchange earnings have all risen. We feel it prudent to make a continuing high level of provisions in the United States and Asia, but overall results in the United States are better. Profits from most parts of the world where the Group operates are generally satisfactory.

Timothy Bevan

Timothy Bevan, Chairman, Barclays Bank PLC, 4th August 1983

THE BARCLAYS GROUP CONSOLIDATED PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT (UNAUDITED) (Historic cost basis)

	Half-year ended 30th June 1983	Half-year ended 31st December 1982	Half-year ended 30th June 1982
Operating profit	262	256	231
Share of profit of associated companies	36	39	36
Total Group profit	308	295	267
Interest on loan capital	43	36	31
Profit before taxation	262	259	236
Taxation	75	64	67
Profit after taxation	187	195	169
Profit attributable to minority interests in subsidiary companies	22	18	17
Profit attributable to members of Barclays Bank PLC	165	177	152
Dividends	39	38	37
Profit retained	126	139	115
Earnings per £1 Ordinary stock	48.4p	51.8p	44.9p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary stock	11.5p	11.0p	11.0p

NOTES:

- The accounting policies are as explained on page 37 of the 1982 annual accounts.
- Analyses of total Group profit:

	Half-year ended 30.6.83	Half-year ended 31.12.82	Half-year ended 30.6.82
By nature of income/expense:	£m	£m	£m
Interest income	3,414	3,471	3,530
Interest expense	2,340	2,441	2,614
Net interest income	1,074	1,030	916
Other operating income	446	387	329
	1,520	1,417	1,245
Operating expenses:			
Staff	648	624	569
Property and equipment	190	177	153
Other	226	215	180
	1,064	1,016	902
Charge for bad and doubtful debts	455	401	343
	193	203	115
	262	198	228
Profits on realisation of investments	7	59	3
	269	256	231
Share of profit of associated companies	36	39	36
	305	295	267

By geographical area:

	1983	1982	1982
Domestic:			
Barclays Bank PLC	132	163	151
Barclays Merchant Bank Group	6	2	6
Mercantile Credit Group	17	20	22
Other domestic companies	27	28	24
	182	213	203
International:			
United Kingdom	19	13	12
United States	5	(12)	(23)
South Africa	47	46	32
Rest of the World	32	35	43
	103	82	64
	305	295	267



BARCLAYS

Registered Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH. Registered No. 48839.

P.T. ASTRA INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED

US\$25,000,000

Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1986.

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the Interest Period from 31st May 1983 to 30th November 1983 the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 9 7/8% per annum. The Coupon Amount for this period for each principal amount of US\$500,000 is US\$2,484.01.

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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

(continued)

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Even with the "Energy Concept" modifications which have brought a 28 per cent improvement in fuel consumption, the 500

car even being a twinkle in our eye until it has been clearly established that there is a viable slot in the market for it and that is not

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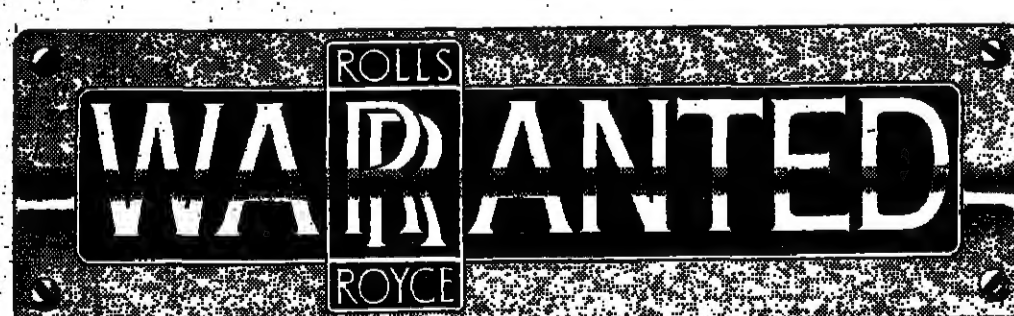
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND FUNERALS

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Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 10.00am and 12.00pm. For publication the following day, please by 1.00pm.

FORWORTHING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc. on Court and Social Pages, £25 a line.

Court and Social Page announcements cannot be accepted by telephone.

In the wedding shall witness break out, and strains in the death.

BIRTHS

ANDERSON - On August 2nd, 1983, to Victor and Jane, a daughter, (Alice) Alice.

BUXTON - On August 3rd, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Buxton, a daughter, (Emily) Emily.

CRISP - On July 28th, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Crisp, a son, (John) John.

GORRALL - On July 14th, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Gorrall, a daughter, (Sarah) Sarah.

HARPER - On August 2nd, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Harper, a son, (Michael) Michael.

LYONS - On August 2nd, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, a son, (William) William.

NIGRO - On August 2nd, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Nigro, a son, (Michael) Michael.

THOM - On August 1st, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Thom, a son, (Michael) Michael.

WOLLEY - On August 1st, 1983, to Mr. and Mrs. Wolley, a son, (Michael) Michael.

BIRTHDAYS

SAM, my true love. Happy Birthday. Yours, David.

MARRIAGES

HAYWARD - On 20th July, 1983, at St. Paul's Church, London, the marriage of David Hayward and Jane Hayward.

PATON-GIBBS - On 30th July, 1983, at St. Paul's Church, London, the marriage of David Paton-Gibbs and Jane Paton-Gibbs.

DEATHS

BACUS - On Wednesday, 3rd August, 1983, at 90 years of age, David Bacus, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

BLAKE - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Blake, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

CHESNOR - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Chesnor, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

EDWARDS - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Edwards, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

GRAIN - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Grain, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

LYONS - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Lyons, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

NEWTON - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Newton, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

POWELL - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Powell, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

QUERREY - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Querrey, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

STEWART - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Stewart, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

TURTON - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Turton, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

WALSH - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Walsh, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

DEATHS

WINT - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Wint, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOHN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David John, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

COINCIDENCE

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Coincidence, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

MOTHER LOST

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Mother Lost, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

THIRTEEN

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Thirteen, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

ROBINSON

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Robinson, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

THOM

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Thom, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

WOLLEY

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Wolley, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

TIMWAY IS YOUR WAY TO GREECE

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Timway, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

RETURN PRICES

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Return Prices, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

PILGRIM-AIR

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Pilgrim-Air, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

AUSTRALASIA AND WORLDWIDE

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Australasia and Worldwide, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY BARGAINS

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Last Minute Holiday Bargains, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

VENTURA HOLIDAYS

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Ventura Holidays, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

LAST MINUTE FLIGHT BARGAINS

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Last Minute Flight Bargains, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

LOW COST FLIGHTS

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Low Cost Flights, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

COST CUTTERS ON FLIGHTS/HOLIDAYS

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Cost Cutters on Flights/Holidays, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

BARBADOES

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Barbadoes, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

NICE

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Nice, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

CHEAP FARES USA, Far East, etc.

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Cheap Fares USA, Far East, etc., of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

TURKEY

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Turkey, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

HAWAIIAN TRAVEL

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Hawaiian Travel, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

LATIN AMERICAN TRAVEL

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Latin American Travel, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

STEWART

On the 2nd August, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Stewart, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

TURTON

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WALSH

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WALSH - On August 2nd, 1983, at 82 years of age, David Walsh, of 11, St. Paul's Church, London.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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A boy running away yesterday after presenting the Queen Mother with a gift (above) with Princess Margaret, the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones looking on. Below, the Coldstream Guards march past. Photographs: John Voss.

Admirers sing for 'their' Queen Mother

By David Nicholson-Lord

Eighty-three may not be the most rounded of numbers, but for the loyal admirers of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother it proved no obstacle to celebration yesterday. Hundreds of them turned up in the sunshine outside the gates of Clarence House to wish her happy birthday.

By 11am the crowd had swelled to 2,000 and a cheer went up as she appeared at the balcony. She then went down to meet them, receiving bouquets and poses from 30 children - and one or two adults - and watching the band of the Coldstream Guards march past playing "Happy Birthday" on the pipes and drums. The crowd, of course, joined in.

For the Queen Mother it was

a typical royal great-grandmother birthday. Vans from Fortnum & Mason arrived bearing bouquets. Her piper played in the gardens. Birthday cards and messages were delivered by the staff, more than 3,000 of them in all.

Last night she saw a performance of *Gypsies and Dolls* at the National Theatre and today is due to leave London for a three-week holiday at her home in Calke, the Castle of May.

One of the loyalist admirers outside Clarence House yesterday was Miss Muriel Joyne, aged 80, of Croydon, south London. She stood all day in the Mall to see the processions when the Queen Mother was married in 1923.



Artful dodgers in the thieves' kitchen across the Vistula

Letter from Warsaw

Warsaw is not the place for those who quiver at the very thought of Clapham (or Battersea or Wandsworth), who squeeze their eyes tight as they rattle in sealed carriages through the savage transportation civilization of southern London en route to the imagined safety of Kew.

Warsaw, like other large cities, is divided by its river. The one side (my side) is a fortress of gentility: here I live quietly with the likes of General Jaruzelski, assorted intellectuals, Andrzej Wajda, a fair sprinkling of honest workers, the Prime Minister of Poland. It is an orderly life. We would, had our other duties permitted, have cleaned our cars on Sunday.

The other side of the Vistula is known as Praga, not the capital of Czechoslovakia (which goes by a similar name) but the capital of crime. When the General recently spoke of two Polands, the one decent and clean-living and the other symbolized by "an idle man, a profiteer, a bribe-taker who gets rich at other people's expense, an underground sewer of dirty deals" many of us thought about Praga, the part of Poland that martial law could not reach.

Praga is tough, as befits a place that survived a Cossack massacre after the eighteenth century uprising. Praga is also rough. It is dominated by a large open air market, the Bazar Rzycki, which is comprised half of licensed traders and half of black market dealers.

Millions around the centre, men offer coffee - one of the prices black market goods at present - at four or five times the official price, women offer dresses and shoes, teenagers records and Western girls' magazines.

Near one of the entrances dealers offer an arm's length of wrist watches. The goods are often East German, Bulgarian or Russian: this is one of the first stops for Soviet tourists after the regulation visits to war memorials.

They bring with them caviar or - the more ambitious - diamonds. These are traded for East German shoes or whatever is in short supply in the fatherland. This is the alternative common market where everything has fallen off the back of the Warsaw Pact lorry.

Not surprisingly the market becomes the focus of large-scale crime. Men drinking

illegally-sold beer stand around in Kung Fu-T shirts contriving the look of simultaneous relaxation and tension that distinguishes gangsters.

plain clothes policemen and editors of the *Daily Express*. Fringing the market is Brzeska Street. There used to be an illegal meat market in the courtyards of Brzeska but this seems to have been cleared up in a rare success for the police in the area.

But the street is still the place to look for a *melina*, an illegal vodka outlet. At two o'clock in the morning, long

leave the man to pursue his real interests: black market currency dealing, siphoning off petrol, passing on or respraying stolen cars, living on the margin.

Zloties are used to buy dollars illegally from tourists or anybody who gets sent foreign currency from western relatives. The dollars are then used to buy scarce goods either in the official hard currency shops or elsewhere. These goods are then sold for a huge mark-up in zloties.

Zloties build up, stored in the cupboards in Praga apart-



Fortress of gentility: Warsaw's Castle Square.

after every restaurant has shut, taxis can be seen crawling along Brzeska, stopping suddenly in front of a portal where vodka is on sale at several times the official price.

Praga was not destroyed by the Germans after the Warsaw uprising during the Second World War, as the Russians had already gained control of the eastern bank of the Vistula. The result is a network of courtyards that has changed little since the 1930s.

The corners of Praga smell of stale beer, the homes are catcombs with wooden floors, sanitation is suspect. On a summer morning, the men, bareheaded because of the heat, gather ground and make a game out of flipping a zloty from one end of a yard to another. Some women, bulging with fat, watch from the windows; but most are at work or shopping.

Despite a law designed to stamp out "work shirkers", the professional dodgers have few problems. Quite simply, a market has sprung up for fake work documents. For a consideration, a small private trader will claim that somebody is working for him and

ments, waiting for the main chance - a million, for example, will buy a clapped out Mercedes which can be resold at a profit in four months.

The papers recently reported a case that can stand as the perfect Praga liaison. During a party in Praga, one dealer stole a bundle of zloties tucked away in the kitchen of the host. The host found out, demanded the money back and the thief, evidently frightened, did as he was told.

A woman was involved: a woman who had only got married because she needed to be officially registered in Warsaw and now wanted to leave her husband of convenience. Apparently because he coveted the woman, and to "teach the thief a lesson", the erstwhile host had his collection murdered. End of story: in Praga, the only remarkable part of the incident was that the murderer was caught.

Meanwhile, over the other side of the river, General Jaruzelski, Cardinal Glemp and I try to sleep peacefully in our beds.

Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions
Egypt and the British, Gallery of Modern Art, Athens, Mon to Sat 10 to 6; (until Sept 17).
Show Business Goes on Tour: Theatre Museum's performing arts; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until Sept 10).

Last chance to see
Paintings and drawings by Jack Knox, Fruitmarket Gallery, Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends tomorrow).
St Mary's Well, Desmond Deane; acquisitions from the excavation of the seventeenth-century well and adjoining bath house; and Leather Shoes from Newcastle-upon-Tyne; comparing relics of shoes excavated from the Castle Ditch with those shown in portraits and paintings of the period; both exhibitions at Oxford, 8.

Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (both ends today).
Pottery - eighteenth and nineteenth century, Glend Gallery, Lloyd's House, 16 Lloyd Street, Manchester; Mon to Fri 9 to 5, closed Sat and Sun, Thurs 9 to 8; (ends today).
Paul Nash Book Designs, Turner House, Plymouth Road, Penarth; Tues to Sat, 11 to 12.45 and 2 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon; (ends tomorrow).
Design for Living, Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30; (ends tomorrow).
Naive painters: Halesworth Gallery, Sleaford, Leics, Halesworth, Suffolk; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 3 to 6; (ends today).
By Trolleybus: 50th anniversary of Bourne Museum and Art Gallery, East Cliff, Bourne, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5.30; (ends tomorrow).

Music
Concert by Ulster Orchestra, White Hall, Belfast, 7.45.
Concert by Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.
Concert by National Youth Orchestra of Wales, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.
Harp recital by Danielle Perret, main foyer, Festival Hall, 12.30.
Recital by Yusef Ismail (piano) and Ka Kit Tam (piano), St Lawrence Jewry, Gresham Street, EC2, 1.
Piano recital by Rosemary Field, St Martin-in-the-Lodge, Ludgate Hill, EC4, 1.15.

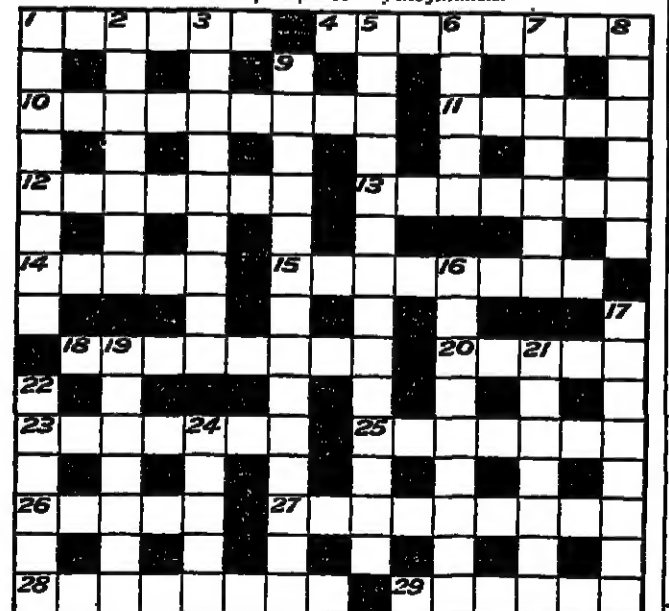
Talks, lectures, films
Persian, Turkish and Mughal Miniatures, 12 Indian Manuscripts, 2.30; both by Barbara Brand, British Library.
Modern Sculpture (11) The Age of Pop, by Simon Wilson, Tate Gallery, 1.
Lachish: A Canaanite and Hebrew City, by Jonathan Tubbs, 11.30; Houses and villas of Pompeii and Herculaneum by Patsy Vagg, 1.15; both at British Museum.
Rich Man Poor Man, a talk for children, 11.30, and Space on 15th Century Italian Painting, by Sarah Kelly, 1; both at National Gallery.

Walks
The Strand - Alleys and Hidden Places, meet Embankment Underground, 2 pm.
Literary London, meet St Paul's Underground, 2.30 pm.
Inns of Court, meet Holborn Underground, 11 am.
Dickens' London, meet St Paul's Underground, 2 pm.
Chaucer and Whittington's London, meet outside Museum of London, 2.30 pm.
Roman London, meet Tower Hill Underground, 2.30 pm.
An Historic Pub Walk, meet Blackfriars Underground, 7.30 pm.

General
Durham City Folk Festival, Durham House, Durham City; today 8 pm to 1 am, Sat 10 am to midnight, Sun 10 to 5.30.
The 11th Lowther Horse Driving Trials and Country Fair, Lowther Castle, nr Pefferk, Cumbria, today until Sunday.
Manchester Show, Platt Fields Park, Wilmslow Road, Manchester, 11 to 9 today (10 to 9 tomorrow, 11 to 7 Sun).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,200

This puzzle, used at the London A regional final of the Collins Dictionary Times Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 18 per cent of the finalists.



ACROSS

- Provide inspiration for puzzle (6).
- Victory for William Shakespeare's lord (8).
- Solicitor working for "X" (9).
- Mounting need - no money whatsoever returned (5).
- Measure 5, perhaps (7).
- Observant spot man hiding there (7).
- Foreign news-agency has nothing on poet (5).
- Sheep in shelters would exclude ewe, we hear (8).
- Lancet individual holding runners up (8).
- Work on ship about to take part in Hunting of the Snark (5).
- One of the first makers of aprons (3-4).
- Student team A, on inside and outside (7).
- Bad temper of people Johnson considered fair (5).
- Baker Street urchin not obeying rules (9).
- Use number - note the increase (8).
- Impudent striker, of course (6).

- DOWN**
- Speak ill of Sheridan's character (8).
 - Good behaviour in police districts, some say (7).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.78	1.70
Austria Sch	2.05	2.05
Belgium Fr	82.50	78.50
Canada \$	1.99	1.83
Denmark Kr	14.90	14.10
Finland Mk	5.55	5.45
France Fr	12.31	11.76
Germany DM	4.10	3.90
Greece Dr	136.00	127.00
Hongkong \$	11.50	10.85
Ireland Pt	1.50	1.54
Italy Lira	2445.00	2325.00
Japan Yen	381.00	361.00
Netherlands Gld	4.58	4.36
Norway Kr	11.53	10.96
Portugal Esc	185.00	175.00
South Africa Rd	2.00	1.85
Spain Ptas	227.50	216.50
Sweden Kr	12.12	11.52
Switzerland Fr	3.33	3.16
USA \$	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dnr	154.00	144.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Interest rates apply to investors' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 334.7.

London: The FT Index closed down 2.0 at 723.6.

Food prices

Summer fruits are now past their best, and peaches make one of the best alternatives. The weather has been good in the Italian and French growing areas which send the fruit to Britain, and quality is high. Prices vary widely, and the 30p which may well buy only one fine peach from a shop may be enough for three slightly smaller ones from a market stall.

The first home-grown desert apples should soon appear at higher prices than last year, and the weather is ensuring that prices of fresh seasonal vegetables remain high. Runner beans cost well over 50p a pound and carrots more than 20p when loose and often well over 30p when sold in bunches with their foliage. The high prices of fresh vegetables make mushrooms at about £1 a pound, a better buy than usual.

Anniversaries

Births: Alexander William Kinglake, historian, Taunton, 1809; Edward John Eyre, explorer in Australia, Hornsea, Yorkshire, 1815; Guy de Maupassant, Dieppe, 1850.

Deaths: Frederick North, 2nd Earl of Guilford, Prime Minister, 1770-82, London, 1792; Phil May, caricaturist, London, 1903.

Top films

- Top box office films in London:**
1. Superman II
 2. Return of the Jedi
 3. Monty Python's The Meaning of Life
 4. Flashdance
 5. Educating Rita
 6. Heat and Dust
 7. Raiders of the Lost Ark
 8. King of Comedy
 9. Outspaced
 10. Superman III

The top five in the provinces:

1. Outspaced
2. Superman III
3. Heat and Dust
4. Return of the Jedi
5. Monty Python's The Meaning of Life

Compiled by Screen International

Roads

London and South-east: M16: Closed northbound 8 pm until 6 am; diversions on A405 and M1. Westminster: Buckingham Palace Road closed overnight 9 pm to 7 am between Belgrave Street and Euston Street outside Victoria Station. A259: Delays on Brighton Road at Newhaven.

Wales and West: A49/A465: Serious delays at Belmont Island, Hereford. A487: Temporary lights on Dolgellau to Machynlleth at Tal-y-llyn. A429: Temporary lights at Northcote.

Midlands and East Angles: A1: Lane closures at Colsterworth, Lincolnshire. M54: Lane closures on Tolford by-pass, diversion at junction 5. M42: Six-lane carriageway closed; diversion.

North: A1/B134th: Roadworks on Alnwick bridge by-pass, Northumberland. A550: Roadworks on Middleton road at junction with Barony Road, Nantwich, Cheshire.

South: M9: Lane closures between junction 5 and 7 (Falkirk to Kincardine Bridge). M8: Roadworks at St James interchange, junction 29, Strathclyde.

The papers

Kenya's biggest selling paper, The Nation, has criticized a decision by six southern African countries to ban foreign journalists based in South Africa saying it put Africa in a bad light abroad. "When African countries ban journalists they are only giving their critics more ammunition to accuse them of being despotic," the paper says.

The Daily Mirror says why there have been so many apparently misleading and conflicting official statements about Mrs Thatcher's eye trouble. The moral, they say, is that once you start telling lies, you can't stop until you are telling the truth.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the August monthly draw for Premium Bond prizes of £10,000: 7LS 525345 (the latter lives in Surrey); 8LZ 835477 (overseas); 15WS 660457 (Rhodesia); 15ZB 276072 (Kincardine-shire); 21ZZ 447784 (Lincolnshire).

Pollen forecast

	Pollen count	Peak times
Alder	low	3 to 6 pm
Birch	low	3 to 6 pm
Grass	low	3 to 6 pm
Willow	low	3 to 6 pm
Osier	low	3 to 6 pm
Rowan	low	3 to 6 pm
Sycamore	low	3 to 6 pm
Almond	low	3 to 6 pm
Apple	low	3 to 6 pm
Cherry	low	3 to 6 pm
Plum	low	3 to 6 pm
Peach	low	3 to 6 pm
Quince	low	3 to 6 pm
Walnut	low	3 to 6 pm
Box	low	3 to 6 pm
Holly	low	3 to 6 pm
Ivy	low	3 to 6 pm
Mistletoe	low	3 to 6 pm
Yew	low	3 to 6 pm
Box	low	3 to 6 pm
Holly	low	3 to 6 pm
Ivy	low	3 to 6 pm
Mistletoe	low	3 to 6 pm
Yew	low	3 to 6 pm

Lowest day temp: London, 54C; highest night temp: London, 12C; highest night temp: London, 12C.

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Weather forecast

An anticyclone will remain slow-moving over SW England, with a ridge extending over most of the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London SE-E England, East Angles: Rather cloudy at first, sunny periods developing; rain to 10 pm; moderate; max temp 22 to 24C (72 to 75F).

Central S, SW, NW, central N, NE England, Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales: Dry, sunny periods; wind NW, light; max temp 21 to 23C (70 to 73F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Mostly dry, some bright intervals; developing; wind SW, moderate; max temp 18 to 19C (64 to 66F).

North-east, Scotland, Aberdeen, Dundee: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind W, max temp 21 to 22C (70 to 72F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Shetland: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind NW, light; max temp 21 to 22C (70 to 72F).

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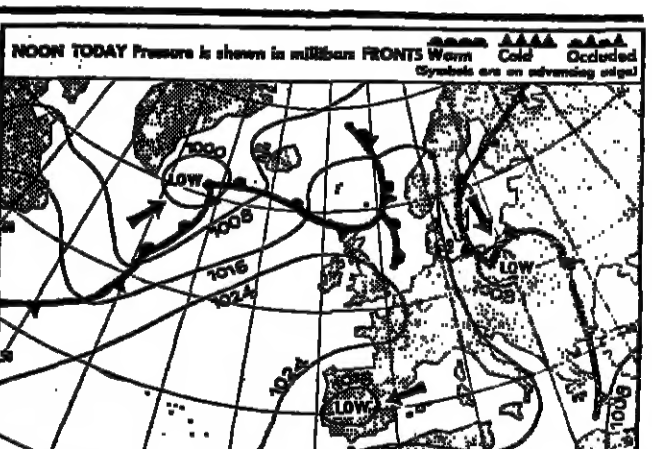
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Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Shetland: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind NW, light; max temp 21 to 22C (70 to 72F).



High tides

NOON TODAY